The Pittsburgh Commercial.

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HARRISBURG.

PENNSYLVANIA LEGISLATURE

Special to Pittsburgh Press.

HARRISBURG, March 5, 1874.

SENATE.

Mr. McClure introduced a bill to provide for certain Inspectors in prisons and houses of correction.

Mr. White. For the better collection of debts. The bill fixing members' salary at $1,000 was passed by a vote of 17 to 10.

HOUSE.

The House granted leave to the Cassville Investigating Committee to further prosecute its inquiries.

The House spent the morning on the Appropriation bill.

In the afternoon session, the bill taxing Lancaster coal was laid over.

The Constitutional Advertising bill came up, and, after being warmly debated, was referred to a Select Committee of seven for amendment.

The South Side Water bill was called up, but occupied about two hours. It finally passed to third reading by a close vote.

The Liquor bill was reported favorably from the committee.

Special to Pittsburgh Press.

HARRISBURG, March 6, 1874.

SENATE.

The following bills are read, as follows:

By Mr. White, An act to add the Indiana Normal School.

By Mr. McClure, Relative to mendicant and vagrant children.

By Mr. Fitch, Relative to fees of notaries public, and providing the Philadelphia law all over the State.

An act for the better selection of jurors, and an act for draining mines and quarries passed by the Senate.

The Senate adjourned till Monday evening at o'clock.

HOUSE.

The Judicial Apportionment bill being in order, Mr. Campbell, of Butler, moved an amendment separating Butler from Lawrence county, which was opposed by Messrs. Stranahan, Wolfe, Cross and McKee. The debate filled the entire morning session, when the bill finally passed first reading without amendment.

Mr. Cross, of Beaver, called up the General Appropriation bill, and discussed the question of increasing the appropriation for public grounds from $7,000 to $8,000.

After several opposing speeches by Messrs. Cross and Stranahan, the amendment was adopted—yeas 47, nays 46—and the bill as amended passed to second reading.

The House then resumed consideration of the Constitutional Advertising bill, the question being on the amendment offered by Mr. Cox, providing that amount paid for the publication in any weekly newspaper shall in no case exceed the sum of two hundred and fifty dollars, and that the amount paid for publication in any daily paper shall in no case exceed the sum of one thousand dollars.

Mr. Butterfield, of Erie—It is unfortunate that we have not been able to come to some understanding on this bill. It is now four months since these bills become due, and many of these men need their money. I have received many letters from my district in reference to it, one of which I ask the clerk to read. (Clerk read the letter.)

Mr. Little, of Wyoming—I, too, have received letters on that subject, but it is a little different from the one just read. It says: I confess to a feeling of shame at the existence of the bills presented. There evidently is diffused a very high sense of honor concerning the publishing fraternity. Most papers advertise their rates, and it is supposed that no individual would pay more than the advertised rates. If he does, he gets no chance.

Mr. Brockway—I am ashamed of the cloth. That use is it for editors to inveigh against? Last year, during the investigation of various local departments, the opposition to the re-election of the Jury laws, and those pious injunctions to honesty, and the rant about the moral rottenness of the body politic, when the first opportunity, they dip into the treasury arm's length, steal what they can, and claim it as their due. For the credit of the profession of the press, I hope that these extravagant bills will not be paid. There are some changes made in the above exhibit, and there are some outrageously dishonest ones.

Mr. Webb—The editor who will falsify upon plain facts, for the purpose of drawing bills upon the Treasury, is equal to Tweed. He is disgrace to the profession which he claims to honor.

A special committee to which the constitutional advertising has been referred, consisting of Messrs. Talley of Delaware (chairman), Reyburn, Ramey, Allen, Bates and Cox.

The representatives of the various railroads in the State will be heard by the Finance Committee on next Wednesday. J. Edgar Thomson, telegraphed Senator Graham that he would be with him. W. J. Howard, Franklin B. Gowen, and McVeigh and others. The new Corporation bill is the bone of contention.

Special to Pittsburgh Press.

HARRISBURG, March 9, 1874.

SENATE.

The Senate held a session to-night for the purpose of filling first time.

The House Mr. Newmyer read in place of preventing the resignation of members when charges are preferred; also for the prevention of corruption of members of the Legislature.

Correspondence of the Pittsburgh Commercial.

HARRISBURG, March 4, 1874.

The Senate to-day, a number of reports from committees were received, as follows:

By Mr. White, Judiciary General, with amendment, An act relating to suits for wages, preventing stay of execution on judgment ob-

Mr. Graham, the same committee, as committed, An act authorizing the courts to confirm titles to lands where the conveyances are defective, &c.

By Mr. Cullen, same committee, with negative recommendation, A further supplement to an act entitled An act allowing parties in interest to be witnesses.

By Mr. Lilly, the same, with negative recommendation, A further supplement to an act relating to certain duties of husband and wife and their children, &c.

By Mr. Fitch, same committee, with negative recommendation, An act relating to cohabitation and repute.

By Mr. Lilly, the same, as committed, An act to provide for the recording of deaths by the Register of Wills.

By Mr. Weakley, with negative recommendation, A supplement to the act providing for the payment of land on execution for payment of debts, &c.

By Mr. Graham, the same, with negative recommendation, A further supplement to the several acts relating to limitation of actions.

The bills in place were presented and read by Mr. Cowland, An act authorizing the collection of contributions for charitable purposes.

By Mr. Warfel, An act to provide for the custody of the names persons charged with or convicted of

Mr. McClure secured the passage of a resolution for an evening session, for the consideration of the Centennial bill.

The Senate bill No. 70, a supplement to an act to better and impartial selection of persons to serve as jurors in each of the counties of the Commonwealth, passed first reading.

Mr. Rutan's motion the rules were suspended, and the Senate proceeded to the consideration of Senate bill No. 53, to provide a settlement of the account of the State Treasurer by the Auditor General. Mr. White moved to get in an amendment providing for the examination of the account of Mr. Singerly, printing done for the Constitutional Convention and his losses by fire, to be made by the Attorney General, Auditor General and Secretary of the Commonwealth, and that no money to be certified by them to the Auditor General. The vote stood 5 for to 20 against this proposition. The bill was then passed finally, yeas 19, nays 9.

Mr. Anderson, of Allegheny, of the committee to investigate the Cassville Orphans' Home affairs, made a verbal statement that the appropriation of $1,000 had been expended; that at least from $1,000 to $2,000 additional will be required to pursue the investigation, and desired an expression of the Senate on the subject. Mr. Chalfant stated that the number of witnesses had been examined, and the committee had been very economical, and the defense claimed that he had a number of witnesses that he should be allowed to have examined. Mr. Anderson stated that over one hundred witnesses had been examined by the committee.

Mr. McClure offered the following resolution, viz:

Resolved, That the Committee on Education be instructed to prosecute the investigation of the Cassville school, and to summon such witnesses as may be required, and report the evidence thereof to the Senate. Agreed to.

The bill No. 54, An act fixing the compensation of members of the General Assembly for the number, duties and compensation of officers and employees thereof, being on the second reading, the Senate, on motion of Mr. Graham, went into Committee of the Whole for the purpose of special amendment. The amendment of Mr. White, which was agreed to, increases the salary of the superintendents of public grounds from six hundred to eight hundred dollars.

Mr. Warren then, by unanimous consent, called the first section of the bill read as to fix the compensation at $1,000 for each regular biennial annual session, instead of each regular session. The vote by which Mr. White's amendment was passed was reconsidered, on motion of Mr. Rutan, and voted down. The bill was then agreed to, and laid over to be printed.

The Senate bill No. 53, An act to divide the Fifth Normal School district, and forming a new district, to be known as the Thirteenth, passed finally.

The Senate bill No. 42, An act to provide for the regulation and regulation of insurance companies, came up on second reading, was considered and finally amended and passed.

The House, the General Appropriation bill was considered in Committee of the Whole, and was amended in several of the sections.

It was then reported to the House, and passed first reading as amended. Appended is a list of the appropriations provided for by the bill:

Governor's salary	$10,000
Private Secretary	2,500
Executive Clerk	1,500
Messenger	900
Incidentals	2,000
Watchman	900
Secretary Commonwealth's salary	3,500
Deputy Secretary	2,250
Chief Clerk	1,800
Eight clerks	11,200
Miscellaneous	5,300
Editing proceedings of Board of War	2,500
Auditor General's salary	3,000
Chief Clerk	1,800
Executing tax laws	1,900
Nine clerks	12,600
Miscellaneous	5,575
Surveyor General's salary	2,500
Chief Clerk	1,800
Eleven clerks	15,700
Miscellaneous	2,400
Attorney General's salary	3,500
Deputy Attorney General	1,800
Clerk messenger	1,400
Miscellaneous	1,900
Adjutant General's salary	2,500
Three clerks	4,600
Miscellaneous	11,072
State Treasurer's salary	5,000
Four clerks	6,300
Miscellaneous	2,700
Superintendent of Common Schools' salary	2,500
Deputy Superintendent	1,800
Additional Deputy	2,200
Three clerks	4,200
Miscellaneous	7,300

For the support of common schools, $1,000,000. *Provided*, that Philadelphia shall be entitled to a proper proportion of this appropriation without contributing to the salaries of the county superintendents and that the sum of $3,000 of the amount received by the city shall be paid to the teachers' institute.

Commissioner of Bureau of Statistics	$ 2,598
Three clerks	4,200
Miscellaneous	1,400
State Librarian's salary	1,200
Assistant	900
Miscellaneous	4,100
Superintendent Public Printing	1,600
Contingent expenses	100
Pub le printing, folding stitching and binding	70,000
Legislative Record, per page	14
Superintendent Public Buildings	1,400
Watchmen	3,600
Repairs to buildings and grounds	5,000
Winding and oiling capitol clock	125
Harrisburg water department	600
Harrisburg gas company (amount found due)	
Harrisburg fire companies	700
Judges Supreme Court salaries	42,000
District and Common Pleas Judges of Philadelphia	60,000
Allegheny judges	20,000
Remaining county judges	5,000
County judges, each	4,000
Associate judges	90,000
Orphans' Court judges, each	4,000
Legislative expenses	250,000

(Senators $1,000 each and mileage to the members.)

Forwarding "Daily Journal" to members	250
Interest on funded debt of the State	1,500,000
Chamberburg loan certificates	2,500
Resident clerk, expenses during year	1,500
Sergeant-at-arms, expenses during year	350
Chaplains, Senate and House, each	300
Agent Board Public Charities and expenses	5,000
Indexing Journals, two clerks each	200
Stationery, printing paper, fuel (as required by contract)	

THE BANK SWINDLE.

Mr. Young, from the special committee appointed to investigate the Dimmick-Kreiter or Gibbons-Saunders black-mailing scheme, made the following report:

To the Honorable the House of Representatives of Pennsylvania:

The undersigned committee appointed by your honorable body to investigate the authorship of a certain circular, signed R. H. Gibbons, making assessments upon the banks and bankers of the Commonwealth, avowedly to aid in the passage of House bill No. 18, entitled An act to repeal the Usury laws of this Commonwealth and to fix the rate of interest, have discharged the duties imposed upon them, and respectfully beg leave to report: That they have examined a large number of witnesses and have exhausted all available sources of information in order to arrive at all the facts bearing on the matter of inquiry. From evidence taken, and which is herewith submitted as a part of this report, the committee have drawn the following conclusions:

1. At some time previous to January 20th, A. D. 1874, Mr. Wm. H. Dimmick, late a member of the House of Representatives from the county of Wayne, or some one in his behalf, caused to be printed a circular letter dated January 20th, 1874, and signed "R. H. Gibbons," secretary (see exhibit D), requesting the several banks throughout the State "to circulate petitions favoring an increase of the legal rate of interest to seven per centum per annum," and in like manner procured blank petitions with printed headings (see exhibit H), to be inclosed with the circulars to the banks.

On or about the 20th of January, Mr. Wm. H. Dimmick and Lewis B. Richtmyer, postmaster of the Senate, registered at the Lochiel and Capitol Hotel, Harrisburg, inclosed and addressed to the banks and bankers of the State, copies of the foregoing documents.

The address of the banks and bankers was taken from a bankers' almanac of 1873, borrowed of J. W. Weir, cashier of the Harrisburg National bank, by Mr. J. M. Kreiter, for the use of Mr. Wm. H. Dimmick.

Mr. Dimmick furnished the printed documents, envelopes and stamps, and Mr. Richtmyer conveyed them to the postoffice and mailed them.

To these circulars sundry replies were received at the Harrisburg postoffice and sent to the Senate postoffice by Mr. Richtmyer, and, by request of Mr. Dimmick, from the Senate postoffice they were delivered to Mr. Dimmick by Mr. Richtmyer (see Richtmyer's testimony). A portion of the time stopping at the house of William H. Dimmick (see testimony of R. H. Gibbons and others, taken at Honesdale). So far as your committee have been able to ascertain, the originator of this scheme, Wm. H. Dimmick, admitted no one to share in a full knowledge of the transaction, but gave to others such information only as served to accomplish his purpose: and so far as the committee know or believe, no other member of the Legislature had any knowledge of it. It is evident from the testimony that Dimmick had no intention of using the money received from the banks to aid in the passage of House bill No. 18, but solely for his own private benefit.

On Monday, the 23d of February, your committee were prepared to report a portion of the testimony, and a resolution expelling Wm. H. Dimmick from membership, but having been anticipated in this by his resignation, concluded to postpone any report until the investigation was completed.

Your committee submit these facts to the House for such further action as it may deem proper, and ask to be discharged from the further consideration of this matter.

B. A. MY TOUNG,
R. D. MCCREARY,
JNO. H. ORVIS,
Committee.

Mr. Mylin, from the Committee on Judicial Apportionment, reported with amendment Senate bill 43, entitled An act designating the judicial districts of this Commonwealth. It was made the special order for Friday.

SPECIAL.

Special Correspondence of the Pittsburgh Commercial.

HARRISBURG, March 5, 1874.

In the Senate, to-day, Mr. Graham reported from the Finance Committee, as committed, House bill No. 51, Making appropriations for the support of the Pennsylvania Institution for the Deaf and Dumb.

Mr. Albright, Mines and Mining, as committed, House bill No. 29, Joint resolution providing for the appointment by the Governor of three commissioners to investigate the condition of the bituminous coal mines in this Commonwealth.

Mr. Warfel, Finance, as committed, House bill No. 49, An act making appropriations for the support of the Pennsylvania Institution for the Blind.

Mr. White had read in place an act for the better collection of debts in Pennsylvania, and Mr. McClure an act to provide women inspectors for the prisons and houses of correction of the Commonwealth.

Mr. Ermentrout endeavored to have the Salary bill postponed, but failed, the vote being 11 for and 15 against his motion. The bill then passed finally, yeas 17, nays 10. It is as follows:

SECTION 1. *Be it enacted, &c.*, That the compensation of members of the General Assembly shall be one thousand dollars for each regular and each adjourned annual session not exceeding one hundred days, and for each session of longer duration necessarily spent after the expiration of the hundred days: *Provided, however*, That such compensation shall not exceed fifty days at any one session, and ten dollars per diem at each adjourned or special session, and mileage to and from their homes at the beginning, adjourned or special session at the rate of twenty cents per mile, to be computed by the ordinary mail route between their homes and Capital of the State.

SEC. 2. That the officers of each branch of the Legislature shall be as follows, to wit:

First. In the House of Representatives, one chief clerk, two assistant clerks, one Speaker's clerk, four transcribing clerks, one sergeant-at-arms and four assistants, one doorkeeper and two assistants, one messenger and four assistants, one doorkeeper of the rotunda, one postmaster and one assistant, one librarian, one superintendent of the folding rooms, eight pasters and folders, one watchman, one janitor of the basement, one fireman, one janitor for the House committee rooms, one janitor for the wash room, and fifteen pages. The firemen, janitors and Speaker's clerk shall be appointed by the Speaker of the House, the watchman, librarian and pages by the chief clerk thereof, but all the rest shall be elected by the House at the time of its organization.

Second. In the Senate, one chief clerk, one journal clerk and one reading clerk, three transcribing clerks, one Speaker's clerk, one librarian, one sergeant-at-arms and two assistants, one doorkeeper and two assistants, one messenger and one assistant, one postmaster, six pasters and folders, one superintendent of the folding room, one watchman, one doorkeeper of rotunda, one fireman, one janitor for the Senate committee rooms, one janitor for the wash room, and fifteen pages. The Speaker's clerk shall be appointed by the Speaker, until the Lieutenant Governor is elected and then by the Lieutenant Governor, the librarian, janitors, watchman, firemen and pages by the chief clerk, and all the rest shall be elected by the Senate.

Third. One engineer, to be appointed by the clerks of the two Houses. None of said officers shall return as such to the next regular meeting of the Legislature, except the chief clerks, the assistant clerks, two transcribing clerks for each House, to be designated by the chief clerks of each House, the librarian, the superintendents of the folding rooms, the sergeants-at-arms, the doorkeeper, the engineer, the firemen, and the messengers, and postmaster of each House.

SEC. 3. The compensation of the officers and employees of the Legislature, herein provided for, shall be as follows, viz: The chief clerks shall each receive twenty-five hundred dollars per annum, and the assistant clerks twelve hundred dollars per annum, and this shall cover all services rendered by them at regular or adjourned sessions, and in vacation: *Provided*, Said clerks shall receive no annual salaries during years which there shall be no regular or adjourned annual sessions, and in years in which special sessions only shall be held, they shall be paid ten dollars per diem for the time of such special session and mileage, as is otherwise provided in this act. The transcribing clerks, sergeants-at-arms, librarians, speakers' clerks and messengers shall each receive eight hundred dollars for each regular session, and five dollars per diem at each adjourned or extra session; the assistant sergeants-at-arms, doorkeepers and assistants, messengers and assistants, the assistant postmasters, superintendents of folding rooms and assistants, the engineers, firemen, janitors and pasters and folders, shall each receive six hundred dollars for each regular session, and five dollars per day at each adjourned or special session; the watchmen shall each receive eight hundred dollars for each regular session, and one dollar per day at each adjourned or special session; each of these officers, except watchmen and pages, shall be entitled to mileage at the rate of ten cents per mile to and from their homes, to be computed by the ordinary mail route between their homes and the State capital.

SEC. 4. That the officers hereinbefore authorized to return to the regular session of the Legislature next following that for which they were elected or appointed, and who shall not be re-elected or elected to some other office in the Legislature, shall be allowed three dollars per diem for ten days, or until their successors are duly elected and qualified, and mileage as hereinbefore provided.

SEC. 5. The officers of each House shall be under the direction and control of the following officers and chief clerk or their respective Houses, to any change of which the duties of such officers are performed in the offices to which they have been respectively elected, no extra compensation shall be allowed to any officer whose duties are transferred to duty. The presiding officer and clerk of each House shall also assign necessary employees to act as clerk to the Committee on Ways and Means, room 1, Capitol, one as clerk of the Finance Committee of the Senate, and additional employees of greater or other compensation or allowance than that provided by this act, shall be voted by either House to any officer or employee of the Legislature at any session, excepting firemen and engineer, who shall each receive three dollars per day for each day necessarily employed, under direction of the chief clerk, during the recess.

SEC. 6. This act shall take effect on the first day of December, Anno Domini one thousand eight hundred and seventy-four.

Senate bill No. 53, An act to enable the owners of wet and spouty lands and mines and quarries to drain and improve the same, passed second reading.

Senate bill No. 70, A supplement to an act for the better and impartial selection of persons to serve as jurors in each of the counties of the Commonwealth, passed second reading.

Senate bill No. 62, Joint resolution relative to the printing and binding of the report of inspectors of mines and mining, passed first reading.

Senate bill No. 68, An act for the incorporation and regulation of banks of discount and deposit, passed first reading.

Senate bill No. 53, An act dividing the cities of this State into three classes, regulating the passage of ordinances and defining and punishing certain offenses therein, and providing for the regulation and government of cities of the third class, passed first reading.

In the House, Mr. Oliver introduced a bill to require the teaching of drawing in all the common schools of the State, and Mr. Jarvis, one making an appropriation for mechanical instruction in the leading colleges.

Mr. Tshudy, from the Committee on Vice and Immorality, reported committed an act regulating the sale of vinous and spirituous liquors.

The act to authorize reform voting for election of Directors of public schools, and the act requiring vocal music to be taught in public schools, were reported with negative recommendations.

The General Appropriation bill came up on second reading. Among the amendments were an increase of salary for the Governor's messenger from $800 to $1,000; for Secretary of the Commonwealth from $2,250 to $2,500; increasing amount for public grounds from $7,000 to $8,000, and appropriating $2,000 for repairs to Executive Mansion, etc.

On motion of Mr. Webb, the House by general consent, struck out all the clauses in the general sections making appropriations to the Judges of the courts.

The bill retains appropriations in the aggregate for the salaries of the judges, and the idea is to leave the specific appropriations to a separate bill on the subject.

Mr. Orvis moved further to amend by striking from the bill all the clauses fixing the salaries of the members of the Legislature. Agreed to.

Mr. Webb moved to reconsider the vote with the view of making the act apply to the members and officers of the Legislature of 1874. Agreed to.

The bill then passed second reading.

The bill to provide for settlement of accounts of newspapers for advertising the new Constitution was taken up. Mr. Welsh withdrew his motion that weekly papers should be paid $250 and dailies $1,000, and substituted the following: "*Provided*, That no papers shall receive a greater sum than $1,000, and such papers as have a circulation not exceeding 10,000 and above 5,000 shall not receive a greater sum than $700, and such papers as have a circulation not exceeding 5,000 and more than 2,000 shall not receive a greater sum than $500, and such papers as have a circulation not exceeding 2,000 shall not receive a greater sum than $300: *Provided*, That such papers as have published the same in German shall be entitled to such sum as may be proper, not exceeding $100 for transcribing the same."

Without reaching a vote on the bill, the House adjourned.

SPECIAL.

Special Correspondence of the Pittsburgh Commercial.

HARRISBURG, March 6, 1874.

The petitions for and remonstrances against the repeal of the Local Option law continue to pour in until the reception of them begins to be tiresome.

In the Senate, this morning, the act to authorize the Governor to fill vacancies in the office of alderman was reported from the Committee on Constitutional Reform by Mr. Fitch, with an amendment.

The supplement to the act for the better protection of the wages of laborers, mechanics, miners, etc., was reported from the Judiciary General by Mr. White, with a number of amendments, and went over until the latter are printed.

The act requiring Judges of the courts to file written opinions, and the Judges of the Supreme Court to designate such of their opinions as they may deem necessary for publication, was returned by the Judiciary General with a negative recommendation.

A number of bills were read in place, the following among them:

Mr. Yerkes, An act relating to the jurisdiction of Courts of Common Pleas, and the organization of Courts of Common Pleas in the county of Philadelphia.

Mr. McClure, An act to authorize the boards of revision in the cities of this Commonwealth to appoint additional assessors. Also, an act in relation to mendicant and vagrant children.

Mr. White, An act to add the Indiana Normal School of Pennsylvania.

Mr. Fitch, An act regulating fees of notaries public.

Senate bill No. 70, An act for the better and impartial selection of persons to serve as jurors in each of the counties of this Commonwealth, was passed finally.

Senate bill No. 53, An act to enable the owners of wet and spouty lands and mines and quarries to drain and improve the same, passed finally.

Senate bill No. 42, Providing for the organization and regulation of insurance companies, came up on third reading. The vote by which it passed second reading was reconsidered, and further consideration postponed.

The following bills passed third reading:

Senate No. 63, Supplement to an act to regulate the commission or license fees to be paid by auctioneers.

House No. 29, Joint resolution providing for the appointment by the Governor of three commissioners to investigate the condition of the bituminous coal mines in this Commonwealth.

Senate No. 42, An act appropriating money for the construction of fish ways and the propagation and protection of fish.

Senate No. 29, An act for the protection of fish.

Senate No. 14, An act regulating the appointment and pay of fish warders or water bailiffs.

Senate No. 60, A supplement to an act relating to writs of quo warranto, approved June 14, 1836, authorizing writs of quo warranto in certain cases.

Senate No. 67, An act supplementary to an act for the regulation and continuance of a system of education by common schools, approved the 8th day of May, A. D. 1854, and the act supplementary thereto, providing for a uniform school tax.

Senate No. 66, An act to prevent corrupt and improper attempts to influence legislators and public officers.

The Senate adjourned till Monday evening, when the time will be devoted to the reading of bills for the first time.

In the House, after the appointment of the special committee on advertising the new Constitution, the Judicial Apportionment bill came up as the special order. Mr. Mylin urged the passage of the bill as it came from the Senate. It was a fair and proper one, and he hoped the House would consider well before making any changes in it.

Mr. Campbell thought there were many inconsistencies in the measure in its present shape. Butler county, for instance, had nearly twice the area and four times the legal business as Beaver county; yet Beaver county was made a separate district, while Butler was joined to Lawrence. He therefore moved that the latter counties be made separate districts.

Mr. Thompson (Fayette) would have preferred to have had Fayette and Greene made separate districts; but as justice demanded that they should be attached, he thought the people of his county would be satisfied.

Mr. Stranahan moved to amend Mr. Campbell's amendment by joining Beaver and Lawrence counties in one district. After some further debate, the bill was reported to the House, read the first time, and made the special order for Wednesday next.

Mr. Christy, from the Committee on Judiciary General, reported with amendments an act relative to compulsory arbitration, and an act relative to the transfer of real estate of married women.

SPECIAL.

Special Correspondence of the Pittsburgh Commercial.

HARRISBURG, March 7, 1874.

There was no session of the Senate to-day. In the House, an effort was made to change the rule as to adjournment over Sunday, so as to have sessions on Saturday afternoon and Monday evening; but Mr. McCreary made a point of order that it required a two-thirds vote of all the members to carry the measure, as it repealed a standing rule of the House, and the point was sustained, after an appeal from the decision of the chair.

Mr. Vogdes, from the Committee on Banks, reported committed the act fixing and defining the individual liability of banks. It makes stockholders in banks, banking companies, saving fund institutions, and all other incorporated associations, the business of banks, or loaning or discounting moneys, personally liable for all debts and deposits in their individual capacity to the amount of capital stock held and owned by each.

An act for the relief of widows and orphans of miners, made such by accidents in coal mines; an act to exempt $300 in local or special, exempting property from taxation; an act limiting the time within which inquisition of lunacy or habitual drunkenness may be issued, and an act to organize the Judiciary Court and Common Pleas Courts to fix the number of jurors on sheriffs' inquests in partitions; an act supplementary to acts relating to the incorporation of savings fund, loan and building associations, were severally reported from committees with negative recommendation.

The following bills were reported from committees, as committed: An act to promote the improvement of real estate by exempting mortgages and other securities for taxes, except for State purposes; an act to provide for the education and maintenance of destitute orphans or deceased soldiers and sailors of the State; an act to amend the act relative to collection of tax receipts; an act to provide for the improvement of the river Delaware, with amendment; an act relating to estates of decedents, an act to empower the Governor to call a Special Session of this State to vacate roads, streets, lanes or alleys which have been laid out and not opened, with amendment; an act relating to the duties of justices of the peace; an act requiring every railroad and canal corporation organized and doing business in this State to have an office; an act to enable the Auditor General to settle the account of the late State Printer; an act providing for the construction of sewers in boroughs; an act regulating the levying of taxes for State roads in boroughs and townships; an act relative to the burial grounds in incorporated boroughs; an act for the further regulation of appeals from assessments of taxes; an act relative to property taken for public use; an act to make valid the acknowledgment of deeds made by husband and wife, with amendment; an act to limit the right of non-resident citizens of Pennsylvania for responsibility incurred by them as copartners; an act by which the title to all estates and interests in lands in the State of Pennsylvania, held by aliens or by the United States when no agreement can be made with the owners of the land; supplement to an act entitled An act for the organization, discipline and regulation of the State militia; also a further supplement to the militia act; an act to provide for a thorough mineralogical and geological survey of the State; an act regulating the size of salt and pickled fish.

Mr. Reyburn introduced the following joint resolution:

Resolved, That if the Senate concurs, the Attorney General be directed to discontinue proceedings against the Union National, Manufacturers National and Western National banks of Philadelphia, Second National bank of Titusville and the First National bank of Philadelphia, or the officers or agents thereof, who sent or caused to be sent remittances for the purpose of aiding in the passage of House bill No. 18, for the purpose of offering directly or indirectly to bribe the members of General Assembly.

The following bills, among others, were read in place:

Mr. Mitchell, A further supplement to several acts relating to actions.

Mr. Foster, One to prevent violation of the Usury laws.

Mr. Mylin, A supplement to an act to establish the mechanics' high school.

Mr. D'Weitt, One to regulate medical practice.

Mr. Vogdes, One defining the notice to be given to all parties in interest, and to be recited in special enactments affecting the estate of minors, &c.

Mr. Newmyer, One for the annexation of boroughs and townships, or parts of townships, to adjacent cities.

Mr. Gowen, One making an appropriation to the Allegheny County Prison Association.

Mr. Potter, One to authorize the collection of poor tax from unseated lands.

SPECIAL.

EUROPE.

BY THE ATLANTIC CABLE.

England.

OFFICIAL FROM ASHANTEE—SAFETY OF THE EXPEDITION.

LONDON, March 7.—A dispatch dated February 7th, from General Wolseley, says: Coomassie has been captured and burned, and the King has fled. The British troops have commenced their return march unhindered.

A dispatch dated February 9th says: An Ashantee messenger has just arrived and requests a treaty of peace. I will remain with the native troops until the 13th or 14th, to allow time for negotiations.

THE LAUREATE'S LATEST.

LONDON, March 7.—Tennyson's poem on the marriage of the Duke of Edinburgh was published to-day.

Upon the fall of Coomassie, Gen. Wolseley issued an order to his troops: "England is proud of such men, and I am proud of the honor of commanding them."

GLADSTONE DECLINES THE OPPOSITION LEADERSHIP.

LONDON, March 8.—The *Observer* says a meeting of the members of the late ministry was held yesterday. The impression that Gladstone has declined the active leadership of the Opposition during the ensuing session, is confirmed. The Marquis of Huntington is mentioned as his successor, but nothing has been decided yet.

THE EXPEDITION RETURNING.

LONDON, March 8.—A transport has arrived at St. Vincent with the first detachment of troops of the Ashantee expedition returning to England.

ACCIDENTS TO STEAMERS.

LONDON, March 9.—The steamer Russia arrived at Queenstown to-day, and reports the passing of the steamship Wisconsin, Saturday last, with her machinery disabled and steaming slowly. The Wisconsin left New York for Liverpool on February 17.

The British steamship Andes, from New York for Cardiff, has been spoken at sea, disabled.

THE CLAIMANT'S COUNSEL HEARD FROM—CHARLES ORTON ACKNOWLEDGES HIS BROTHER.

LONDON, March 9.—Dr. Knealy, counsel of the Tichborne claimant, has published a card protesting against the language of the press and the conduct of the court towards his client. He protests particularly against what he styles "the one-sided use of the power of committal for contempt," which he declares is "unconstitutional and a revival of Star chamber proceedings." In conclusion, Dr. Knealy says: "The prosecution has succeeded in destroying the claimant, and now seeks to ruin his counsel."

Charles Orton has made a confession, which is published in the *Globe*, that the claimant is his own brother.

Later.—Dr. Knealy, the Tichborne claimant's counsel, has written a note apologizing for the violence of his letter of protest, published this morning, and declaring that he had no intention of reflecting on the judicial acts of the court.

WASHINGTON.

Special Dispatch to the Commercial.

WASHINGTON, D. C., March 6, 1874.

An Historical Argument.

Mr. Sargent, a Senator from California, made a sapient remark to-day in a speech, asserting that the London exhibition of 1851 caused the Crimean war, on the ground that it demonstrated to Russia that a nation so successful in the arts of peace as England, was not disposed to go to war, and therefore the former made demonstrations looking to a carrying out of Russian policy. This lively specimen of Pacific slope logic is about on a par with the Senator's knowledge of events outside of California.

Sumner's Battle-Flag Resolution.

The charirman of the Committee on Federal Relations in the Massachusetts Legislature arrived here this morning with copies of the resolution of that body expunging the vote of censure passed upon Mr. Sumner on account of his battle flag resolution. The bearer, a Mr. Smith, is a colored man of education, and to day received considerable attention at the hands of the members of both Houses of Congress.

Impeachment of Judges

The House Committee on the Judiciary have agreed to report a bill authorizing the President, during the pendency of impeachment proceedings against United States Judges, to designate a suitable person to perform the duties of such judge, at the same rate of compensation, the impeached judge receiving compensation at the same time. It is customary at present for a judge, after charges have been preferred, to withdraw from the exercise of his official duties until they have been disposed of. This operates injuriously to the interests of persons having business before the court, and the committee are disposed to remedy the evil.

Chief Justice Waite

will read his first opinion on the 16th of the present month. This is looked forward to with great interest and curiosity among the leading members of the bar in and out of Congress.

The Patent Office.

The House Committee on Patents to-day continued the consideration of the proposition to make the Patent Office an independent department. This is strenuously opposed by the Secretary of the Interior, under whose supreme authority the operations of the Patent Office are now conducted. The measure is not likely to pass, as Congress is opposed to the creation of any more departments, preferring to continue the simpler system of grouping the government bureaus under those Executive officers already in existence.

Special Dispatch to the Commercial.

WASHINGTON, D. C., March 7, 1874.

The Blue Book.

The biennial register, or Blue Book, has just been issued from the Department of the Interior. It gives an official list of the names of all officers and employees of the government on September 30, 1873, the date fixed by law. The book makes over one thousand octavo pages, and from it an idea may be formed of the details of the vast machinery and personnel of the government. The book itself makes a heavy load. The totals grouped under general heads show the following number of

Officers and Employees:

Executive civil, legislative six hundred and twenty-six; Department of State, or under its authority, five hundred and eight; Treasury Department twelve thousand five hundred; War Department, including the army, thirty-four thousand; Navy Department, including the navy, twelve thousand; Interior Department two thousand seven hundred and fifty-nine; Department of Agriculture, one hundred; Supreme, District, Territorial courts, and Court of Claims, two hundred and ninety-seven; making a grand total of over one hundred and thirty thousand five hundred.

Report on War Claims.

Judge Lawrence, chairman of the Committee on War Claims, has completed his report on the subject of the liability of the government to pay for property taken and used by the United States forces during the rebellion. The report will be presented to the committee at the next meeting, and is understood to be adverse to the proposition. In such cases similar to that of Milton Best and claims for damages during the rebel invasion of Pennsylvania. The Best claim was once passed by Congress, but was vetoed by the President. It is thought that a carefully guarded bill might be reported covering cases of peculiar merit. A report of any kind favorable to Governor Curtin's claim is not looked for at present, as there is very prospect of decided opposition in Congress. The Pennsylvania delegation, however, will favor payment, at least in part, as many of the personal claimants are citizens of York, Adams, Franklin and other border counties of the State.

Special Dispatch to the Commercial.

WASHINGTON, D. C., March 9, 1874.

Death of Mr. Fillmore.

The Supreme Court adjourned to-day, in honor of the death of ex-President Fillmore, on motion of Attorney General Williams. Mr. Fillmore was admitted as a counselor of the court in January, 1834, though he never argued a case in that court. Announcement of the death has been made by the President, and suitable tokens of respect will be observed.

Expenses of Indian Outbreaks.

The Senate Committee on Indian Affairs have resolved that the general government is not responsible for the payment of the expenses incurred by States or Territories in suppressing Indian outbreaks, unless sanctioned by the proper authorities, or after an appeal for national aid has been made and granted.

A Deserving Pensioner.

The Committee on Pensions has decided to grant a pension to the widow of David Bailey, of the 13th West Virginia volunteers. His death occurred while returning from an election at which he had disinterestedly volunteered and to which he replied. The committee say that though he was not killed in battle, he died

Weekly Commercial.

SATURDAY, MARCH 14, 1874.

THE latest Grange movement is the formation of a statistical bureau for the collection and dissemination of information in regard to the condition of the crops throughout the country.

DURING the last session of the Maine Legislature no less than twenty-three manufacturing companies were incorporated, with an aggregate capital of $7,130,000, besides thirty-seven cheese factories, with a total capital of $370,500.

THE next State election takes place in Connecticut, on the first Monday of April. More and more the probability of no choice of a State ticket by the people is being concealed by the politicians of both parties. The whole thing is narrowed down to a sharp, decisive contest in every doubtful town; and to a very great extent the superiority of leadership will tell the story.

THE imports of the United States for the nine months ending November 1, 1873, according to the Bureau of Statistics at Washington, amounted to $550,357,511, against $591,504,134 for the corresponding period of the previous year. The domestic exports for the same period in 1873 were $488,217,474, against $437,237,576, the previous year. The foreign exports for each period were about $21,000,000.

A BILL has just been introduced in Congress providing that the government of the United States shall hereafter pay to the women employed by it the same compensation that it pays to its male employees for the same service; and repealing all laws requiring or permitting a difference of compensation on account of sex. It is a measure of simple justice, and ought to pass without any opposition whatever.

THE Committee on Ways and Means are said to be unanimously of the opinion that a number of radical changes in the existing Customs laws are necessary, and the present indications are that the investigation now in progress before them will result in sweeping away two of the most objectionable features—the moiety system and the authorization of informers. What effect delay in the matter may have is, of course, uncertain.

AN IMPORTANT pooling arrangement has been entered into by the leading railroads of New England, with regard to passenger and freight traffic over each road from all competing points. The contract or agreement is substantially as follows: A fixed and permanent rate of sixty per cent. of the gross cost is to be charged for doing the business of each road, and the remaining forty per cent. is to be equally divided between the several corporations. The whole will be under the charge of and managed by an Executive Committee selected from the respective Boards of Directors. A somewhat similar agreement was a short time ago talked of between the leading trunk lines to the West, but we believe the proposition failed.

THERE is a marked falling off in the German emigration to this country. The number of emigrants who landed in New York from the first of last January up to the beginning of the present month, was 2,067, against 5,146 for the corresponding period of last year, showing a decrease of 3,079. This notable falling off is ascribed to two principal causes; the panic which swept over our country last fall, and brought derangement and depression of the labor market in its train; and the large advance of wages in Germany, and the thereby improved condition of the laboring classes. While the first cause is only a temporary one, which will disappear with the revival of business, the second is of a more permanent character, and is likely to diminish the volume of emigration for some time to come.

THE House Committee on Railways and Canals are said to be confident of the passage of the McCRARY bill for a Commission to regulate freights and fares on railroads. It is not at all impossible that they may be disappointed. There is really no means of determining even approximately what will be the action on the bill when it comes to a vote. Everybody seems to agree that something should be done to protect the people from the encroachments of the railroad monopolists, but there is no unanimity whatever as to plans for accomplishing that end. Many of the best thinkers in Congress, as well as out of it, seriously question the advisability, not to say the safety, of placing four thousand million dollars worth of property, substantially, under the control of nine men, as would be done by the organization of the commission contemplated under the bill; between whose effect, should it pass, and a consolidation of all the railroads of the country into one single monopoly that might defy all efforts to break it, there would seem to be but little practical difference. It is exceedingly doubtful whether the popular cry for reform of the abuses of monopoly can be satisfactorily answered by centralizing all monopoly in the hands of nine men, and giving them a monopoly of almost arbitrary power, the control of four billions of property and the employ of hundreds of thousands of men. It is one thing to legislate a commission into existence, and another to legislate it out again. Congress should take all these things into very careful consideration.

ADVERTING to the default of a number of new railroads to pay interest on their bonds since the panic, the New York *Bulletin* says the bondholders have improved the opportunity to make careful examination into the condition and prospects of the companies; and, in too many cases, have discovered a state of things which leaves them no other way of adequately protecting the first lien than to foreclose and pull the roads. Many of these first mortgage investors are foreigners, and not a few of them Germans, who have been severe losers through injudicious investments in some of our weakest and worst managed roads; and being at a distance, and seeing nothing in these cases but what has a strong odor of jobbery, they are impatient to have their rights in the shortest and quickest way possible. When the Germans were taking large amounts of these second class securities, which cut very little figure in Wall Street shyness, some people smiled at their credulity. They now show, however, that they well understood the value of a first lien, and that they are as quick to collect their money as they were ready to lend it. The moral of all this is, not so much that a first mortgage on a railroad—even a second-class railroad—is an unsafe investment, as that railroads which depend mainly upon mortgage capital to the neglect of actual full-paid cash subscriptions for stock, build upon a very precarious foundation. This moral is likely to be taught upon such an extensive scale by current defaults that it can hardly fail to have its due effect upon the future construction of railroads in this country.

PEOPLE, whose gentility prevents them from having their sons taught useful trades, may be led to lay aside their prejudice when they learn that even living royalty does not disdain mechanical pursuits. In the royal house of Prussia it is said that, in accordance with ancient traditional usage, every prince is required to become a mechanic of some kind. Thus, Emperor WILLIAM is a basket-maker, the Crown Prince FREDERIC WILLIAM is a printer, his son a book-binder, etc. Perhaps the skill of the King of Sweden in practical mechanics may be inferred from the fact that he has lately distinguished himself by the invention of an apparatus for extinguishing fires, which, having been fairly tried in Stockholm, has been pronounced a success by competent authority.

In this country people still sometimes quote the saying of the old Jewish doctors—"The father who neglects to teach his son a trade brings him up to steal." But the Jewish doctors knew nothing of trades unions, or of any other reason than neglect on the part of parents why boys should not be equipped for independence and safety in accordance with their precept. In the present age of the world, perhaps a boy cannot afford to have two strings to his bow; in other words, he cannot find time to acquire any useful mastery of a mechanical occupation, besides completing his intellectual education and learning the profession or the unmechanical business by which he hopes to live. In these things too much is now inciuded to admit of acquisitions probably or possibly superfluous. But it is a very depressing feature of our social system which condemns thousands of boys duly qualified for trades and willing to learn them, to be excluded from the career by the combination of men who fear competition. Selfishness never before assumed a more odious or disreputable form. It however does not appear that there is any remedy for the cause, and it would seem that measures cannot too soon be adopted to counteract, in some way yet to be devised, the deplorable consequences.

EVERYBODY has heard of the man who undertook to prove that his horse could live without food, and whose experiment was thwarted by the untimely death of the beast. Perhaps after all the experimenter erred simply in the extreme to which he carried his theory, the common error of speculative minds. In the course of a lecture on the digestive organs, lately delivered before a large audience in Vienna, Professor HYRTL affirmed that much eating is merely an evil habit. By much eating the Professor does not mean gluttony, or even what is called excessive indulgence in food. His doctrine is that even the most temperate people eat a great deal more than is needful either for health or comfort, and that they might, without any inconvenience, subsist on the least quantity of aliment. In illustration, he cited the familiar saying of the Pythagoreans, that a man could live on a bean a day. If correctly reported, the Professor apparently understands the famous mystical precept of the philosopher enjoining abstention from beans as wholly aimed at the small number of the article. The ancient example, however, is of less interest than the Professor's own experiment, performed in November of last year, to realize the sensations of veritable hunger. Having begun to fast on Sunday, he abstained from eating for six days in succession, without suspending his usual occupations and also without much discomfort. But on the night succeeding the sixth day the demands of his stomach became importunate, and compelled him to bring his experiment to a close. It sufficed to confirm him in his conviction that health would be promoted by taking a single meal a day, and that the frequent taking of food with the result of much eating is unnatural, that merely a bad habit.

We are not told how many days of fasting the Professor drank during the experiment, which, besides, seems a slender foundation on which to base the conclusion. There is, however, no reason to doubt that most people do consume a vast deal more nutriment than is either needful or advantageous. Eating is one of the chief pleasures of civilized life, and the custom which makes three or four meals a day essential to comfort, originating in sensuality, no doubt imposes excessive labor on the digestive and vital organs, clogs the system, and sends millions of good citizens every year to premature graves. The apathy with which so appalling a waste is regarded even by moralists is astounding when one thinks of it. Let us hope that the subject will not much longer be neglected by professional reformers.

THE EMPEROR'S LETTER.

Emperor WILLIAM's letter to Lord JOHN RUSSELL will be read by foreigners with nearly as great and lively interest as the same royal writer's letter to the Pope, of some months ago. One effect of the latter will, of course, be to revive the discussion of the great conflict in Germany between the empire and the papacy, a subject concerning which very confident judgments are frequently expressed upon a very slender foundation of positive knowledge. It is natural that German statesmen watch with some concern the public opinion of Protestant England regarding their church policy, and receive with satisfaction any evidence of English sympathy in what they unendowedly believe to be the cause of freedom of thought and conscience. The meeting held in Berlin suitably to acknowledge the London meeting of which the Emperor's letter makes mention, Prof GNEIST, the celebrated jurist, briefly called attention to the relations of each of the two leaders towards the Papal Church in the past. While England emancipated its Catholic population only about a generation ago, in 1829, many ages have elapsed since Germany, in its own way, settled the same questions. Even a meager outline of the Professor's speech will, we suppose, be interesting in itself and besides a useful commentary on the imperial letter, just now going the rounds of the press.

At the date of the Peace of Westphalia, 1648, Germany consisted of a great number of independent or nearly independent kingdoms, principalities, etc., some of them quite small some of them Protestant. In the Protestant States, according to the arrangement established in the Westphalian treaty, the Romish Church had no right to exist. The Protestant prince could, however, either grant his Catholic subjects the privilege of private worship or compel them to emigrate. But Protestant respect for the religious belief of others prevented rulers from availing themselves of this conceded right, and with the Peace of Westphalia began the era not only of toleration but of the gradual recognition of the equality of Catholics and Protestants. Whatever disability Catholics suffered in the Protestant States were removed in the course of the eighteenth century, so that they stood on the same level with Protestants in all respects. They enjoyed the same rights and privileges, civil and ecclesiastical, the claims and authority of the clergy over their people being sustained by the government. Thus in Prussia the marriage law compelled the Catholic subject to call on the priest to solemnize the rite, and compelled the Catholic father of a family to submit his children to the same religious admonition. In every Prussian public school also, religious instruction by the priest is obligatory upon the pupil's of Catholic parentage. Professor GNEIST asserts that the HOHENZOLLERN dynasty always took the lead in these liberal endeavors, which were reciprocated by enlightened Catholic princes of other States and which took root in the tolerant spirit of the people and the local clergy. Never, however, was this conciliatory manner of action responded to by the Holy See. The Pope would never sanction the marriage of Catholics and Protestants, or the Protestant education of their children, or their burial in consecrated ground. A claim of the church to jurisdiction and rule in external matters was never given up, and never even the appearance of an equality of the confessions was recognized; it was all, on the part of the papacy, mere silent endurance of what a stronger power rendered unavoidable. Where Church and State are united, as in Germany, it is plain that this stronger power cannot be supplied either by the individual or by a mere majority; only the State carrying out an established law is capable of the necessary resistance. In consequence of the persistent refusal of the papacy to recognize the equality of the churches, of its constant striving to get the upper hand, the government was forced to devise and adopt the legal measures necessary to maintain the two confessions and the freedom of science and conscience. Such measures were required for the sake of the Catholic populace themselves that they might know within what limits the Papal power was confined. Such laws long existed in Prussia, without being a grievance to the Holy See, and, in fact, the present outcry about oppression is of recent origin. It is directly and easily traceable to the growth and influence of the party in the church which has invested His Holiness with novel and extraordinary powers, and which cannot be satisfied with any position short of supremacy. The entire freedom of the church in relation to the State, a Pope unbound by laws, but still renouncing any of the rights and privileges which are guaranteed by law for the sake of confessional harmony; in a word, the abrogation of all legal restraints upon the absolute will of the Holy Father would alone realize the Papal idea of the right status of his dominion in Prussia.

The remark in the Emperor's letter that "the latest measures of his government only give to the legislation of the country some of the guarantees long possessed by other countries, and formerly possessed by Prussia, without being held by the Romish Church incompatible with the free exercise of her religion" is explained by a statement of Professor GNEIST. He says that he is complained of from only a small portion of laws which have stood in the Prussian code for ages; of laws which also exist and are administered in Austria and in the States of Southern Germany. The explanation sometimes given of the irritation displayed by the hierarchy in Prussia is that the latter being a Protestant State is easily suspected and still more easily represented as being animated by the spirit of persecution. Prussia's king is also German emperor, filling a position for many centuries held by Catholic princes, for the most part obedient servants of the Holy See, and there is, therefore, two-fold reason why the Holy See should, from the first, take a decided attitude towards his government on the subject of Papal rights. The Holy See may hope either to carry its point or to produce among the Catholic subjects of the empire a degree of disaffection fatal to the permanence of the new empire.

In conclusion, Professor GNEIST directs attention to the fact that in the execution of the obnoxious laws in extraordinary steps have been taken, but that the administration of them is left to the ordinary courts. He also states that while the whole country is filled with clerical complaints, denunciations and execrations, the Prussian government executing its school law, takes care that a hundred thousand children of Catholic parents are daily instructed by Catholic teachers in the faith of their fathers and in obedience to the commandments of God. Certainly such a fact does not vividly remind disinterested readers of the "Diocletian persecution"—an atrocity which Romanists are fond of calling to mind as the nearest historical parallel of the present doings in Prussia.

LET HIM GO.

Only a few days ago, Mr. GROSSBECK, of Cincinnati, was regarded throughout the State of Ohio and much farther as a man of the highest character, of unimpeachable honor. Even those who disliked his politics had not a word to say in disparagement of his worth as a citizen and gentleman. Indeed, wherever he was really known at all, it was believed of him that if he had been less morally fastidious and less sensitive to reputation, he would long ago have attained a very high position in public life. Yet Mr. GROSSBECK is now published all over the country as a corruptionist. The charge is that he has been guilty of bribery, and of bribery in a very mean form, that he paid money to effect the sale of certain land of his to the city of Cincinnati as a park. It is true that most men of sense and honor find difficulty in believing the charge. In the first place, there is the antecedent improbability that a man of Mr. GROSSBECK's reputation would do the thing alleged. The Roman satirist spoke a truth never falsified by experience when he said, no one becomes utterly base of a sudden. In the second place, the money said to have been given as a bribe was promised to an ordinary real estate broker as commission, the transaction was just such an one as constantly takes place without suspicion of bribery. The sum in question was not greater than brokers often receive. In the third place, on investigation by the proper authorities no evidence of bribery could be produced; the price paid by the city for the land was not excessive, but a fair price, and the sale was open and public at every stage. It also appeared that less than a year ago, the gentleman charged with indirectly defrauding the city had offered to give it fifty thousand dollars to be expended in roadways and in beautifying a park. But it seems that all these facts and considerations are to go for nothing. A name heretofore honorable is disgraced forever; Mr. GROSSBECK is relegated to the ranks already numerous, of men no better than they should be.

It is nothing less than frightful almost daily to perceive more clearly by how slight and uncertain a tenure reputation is held in this country. It has been so in republics always and there is, we suppose, no solid reason why the leveling tendency should not here be exemplified in the old, familiar ways. Here, as of old, the great multitude of average people are seldom so delighted as when, without effort or exertion on their part, they can see the exalted fall down to the common level or below it. There may be no malice in the feeling, it is simply the low instinct of vulgar human nature which, according to ROCHEFOUCAULD, finds somewhat gratifying in the calamities even of dear friends. Why should it not, secretly at least, exult in the fall of a man destitute of any personal or particular claim upon its benevolence? Nor may we forget that to many, very many in every community, a reported fall of the kind seems so natural and commonplace an incident as irresistibly to command their belief. They are not to be blamed. Penetrated with a consciousness of their own infirmities of nature, if not of life, hardly any ordinary baseness can seem strange to them.

Parasite in Lungs of Sheep.

[From the Ohio Farmer.]

Your correspondent "W. S. W.," in your excellent paper of late date, asks for a remedy for the parasite in the lungs of sheep. We apprehend the pathology of the paper skin disease (so-called) is not by any means understood, the paleness of the subject being the sequence of parasite in lungs of sheep, one, perhaps, of the most prevalent diseases amongst sheep in our country—not confined to any one State or any variety of sheep. Happily there appears to be a certain cure.

PARASITE IN LUNGS OF SHEEP.

H. L. S., Middle Haddam, Connecticut, says in the *Country Gentleman* some time since,

We have had during the past four years a disease in our sheep that has baffled all our efforts to cure, as we did not know what it was, and all that have had the disease have at last died. We have lost about forty of our sheep by this disease. About the first of January, 1873, Dr. Cressy, the veterinary surgeon of the Board of Agriculture, made an examination of several, and found a parasite worm in the lungs, which has long been known in England, but this is the first case ever brought to Dr. Cressy's notice, and to mention of its being known in the United States in any of the books. The following description of the appearance of sheep with the disease, and the appearance of the lungs after the death, may be of interest. The scientific name of the parasite as given by Dr. Cressy is strongylus filaria or round thread worm. The sheep affected run a little at the nose, cough by spells, and when doing it draw themselves up together; stand with head down to the ground and feet near together, with back arched up, have a very loose state of the bowels during the last stage of the disease. They grow very poor and weak, often falling down as they walk, and making hard work to get on their feet again. In opening after death, the lungs are found very small, pale in color and covered with whitish spots on the outside, the underside of the lungs often covered with purple spots, the air tubes pale and stiff, and with a fine threadlike worm in them from one to three inches long; worm nearly white. The lungs are often speckled with a substance like tallow in appearance, and the bowels covered with numerous bunches of like character.

"Dr. Cressy's remedy is to give a teaspoonful of spirits of turpentine twice a day."

H. S., Litchfield county, Connecticut, says in same paper: "Tell R. B., of Montezuma, New York, that his Cotswold ram probably has the same disease now in the passages of worms in the lungs. Let him give him a teaspoonful of turpentine twice or three times a day until he begins to improve. This is said to be a sure cure."

The propriety or rather the impropriety of administering turpentine without mixing with water or something else, we think must be apparent to all.

PALE DISEASE IN LAMBS.

Mr. James Slocom, of Brownsville, Pa., good intelligent authority, says in *Country Gentleman* of rather recent date, "If parties having or suspecting the pale disease among their lambs, would kill the weakest one (if none are dead) and make a post mortem examination of the white bulbs, lungs, stomach, intestines, etc., it might lead to practical results. If the disease put on the following symptoms: emaciation, weakness, skin pale, thin, bloodless; no appearance of blood in the veins about the eyes, evacuations black, resembling droppings from the pig, appetite good, often voracious, eating to the last, in many cases unnatural, eating earth and sticks greedily, it may be set down as the paper or skin of pale disease—and upon dessection, there will probably be found myriads of small worms, and more or less sand or other earthy matter in the fourth stomach, and jointed tape worms in the intestines. If worms were found in the diseased subject, and the skin pale, is not thriving. I would give of the following mixture to each lamb: Proportions, one-half ounce of spirits turpentine to two ounces of linseed (flax) oil, with three tablespoonsfuls at a dose—pouring it from the spoon very slowly, so as not to strangle, and that it may enter the proper stomach, repeating the dose in 24 hours. If there was no improvement in the health of the lambs, and the evacuations continue black and ropy. The remedy has restored lambs so weak that they tottered as they walked, to be saved a large flock of lambs, now full of vigor, strength and flesh."

The turpentine should not be given with castor oil. See "Practical Shepherd," page 312.

GLENN & BROTHERS.

Noblestown, Pa., February 21, 1874.

Journalistic.

Since the sale of the Philadelphia *Age* to Morwitz & Co., about the first of the year, the public has waited patiently to see what changes and improvements the new management would introduce. Until Monday morning last, it was the same old *Age*. The issue for that date, however, was hardly recognizable, as the form of the paper was quarto instead of folio, the whole typographical appearance was revolutionized, a new head crowned it, and a number of illustrations were also printed in every respect, and is the largest paper published in the City of Homes. If the programme announced at the head of its editorial columns is carried out, and it shall "combine all the advantages of a live daily newspaper with those of a journal interesting to all pursuits of life, social and domestic, and made attractive by illustrations," there is no doubt that the *Age* will soon take the lead among its city contemporaries, and gain a wide circulation.

The New York *Graphic* has entered upon its second year, with, it is announced, the most gratifying prospects. While the paper has not in every instance come up to the promises of the publishers, and the anticipations of the public, at least in the way of illustrations, its general success has been marked and gratifying. Its editorial conduct has in the main been judicious and able. The publishers have had many serious obstacles to encounter, and have met and surmounted them manfully. It is expected that the new process of illustration will be further perfected, resulting in greater excellence in the *Graphic's* pictures of current events.

Bad Flour and Meal.

The New York *Star* comments on the outrageous manipulation to which even flour and meal are subjected. Immense quantities of bad flour are used by bakers, we are told, which cannot but be deleterious to human health. Much of the wheat raised in the Western States is infested with the weevil, an insect which burrows itself to the kernel of the grain, and eats and fattens there until it dies. The grain and the weevils are ground up together by the millers, and the delectable mixture (the editor says) is sent East to feed the hungry New Yorkers. The most unwholesome of the flour thrown upon the market, however, is that made from smutty wheat. Wheat becomes smutty when continued wet weather like it is growing in the field. The dampness causes the grain to mold on the stalk. The mold is black and disgusting in appearance. This mold, all physicians agree, is very poisonous beyond question to the human system. It is indigestible and causes those who eat it to become sallow and dyspeptic. Indeed, it often engenders or promotes other painful diseases, and has no doubt shortened the life of many a human being. Another class of unwholesome flour is that which has been doctored, adulterated with chalk, lime, plaster of Paris, alum, white slate-stone, and other similar substances. Alum, the editor says, is always used when poor, cheap, dark flour is mixed with flour of better quality, in order to whiten the inferior stuff and impart to the mixture a satisfactory color. Let us hope that none of this villainous stuff finds its way into the Pittsburgh market.

The Secretary of the Treasury regards the loan of 1858, of twenty million dollars, as practically wiped out.

HARRISBURG.

PENNSYLVANIA LEGISLATURE

Special to Pittsburgh Press.

HARRISBURG, March 10, 1874.

SENATE.

Petitions for, and remonstrance against, the repeal of the Local Option law, were presented by Messrs. Rutan, Chalfant and Cooper.

Bills were read in place as follows:

By Mr. McClure, To pay the canvassers at the State election.

By Mr. Waream, Compelling informers under the License law to prosecute.

By Mr. Fitch, Empowering clergymen and others authorized to join parties in marriage, to administer oaths to the parties and attending witnesses. And imposing penalties for false swearing.

Mr. Graham, A further supplement to an act to regulate the sale of intoxicating liquors.

Mr. Recht, An act to regulate the practice of medicine and surgery within the limits of each of Pennsylvania.

Mr. Fitch, An act to authorize clergymen or other persons authorized to join parties in marriage, to administer oaths to the parties and attending witnesses. And imposing penalties for false swearing witnesses who swear falsely.

Mr. Graham, A supplement granting the use of the Senate chamber to the representatives of corporations, to express their views on the question of tax on corporations.

House bill No. 29, Providing for the appointment by the Governor of a commissioner to investigate the condition of the bituminous mines. Passed second reading.

Senate bill No. 60, Relating to writs of *quo warranto*. Passed second reading.

Senate bill No. 97, An act to regulate the practice of physicians' professional certificates. Also, An act to provide for the payment of examiners appointed by the Commissioners of Election in city of Philadelphia.

Also, An act relating to the service of summons and other writs.

Mr. Graham, A further supplement to an act to regulate the sale of intoxicating liquors.

Mr. Recht, An act to regulate the practice of medicine and surgery within the limits of each of Pennsylvania.

Mr. Fitch, An act to authorize clergymen or other persons authorized to join parties in marriage, to administer oaths to the parties and attending witnesses. And imposing penalties for false swearing witnesses who swear falsely.

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Mr. Fitch, An act to authorize clergymen or other persons authorized to join parties in marriage, to administer oaths to the parties and attending witnesses. And imposing penalties for false swearing witnesses who swear falsely.

Mr. Graham, A further

SUDDEN DEATH OF A FIREMAN.

Investigation by the Coroner.

Intemperance the Probable Cause.

The Testimony in Full—Trouble at an Engine House—Deceased Struck with a Poker by a Brother Fireman.

We regret to report the sudden death of a fireman under circumstances that required the services and investigation of the Coroner and a jury. Mr. Edward Sweeny, a member of the Relief Engine Company, No. 4, died between eight and nine o'clock Sunday morning, at his home on Marion street, after an illness extending only since Wednesday last. It appears from the testimony elicited that on Thursday morning, between twelve and one o'clock, a difficulty occurred in the engine house, in which, however, Sweeny was not a participant, although he was struck with a poker and suffered a severe cut on the right side of the lip. A brother of Sweeny made information before Acting Mayor McMasters, charging the fireman of the company, Mr. J. P. Wunderich, who is said to have used the poker, with aggravated assault and battery. Wunderich was arrested and is in the lock-up awaiting a hearing to-day. It does not appear that the blow of itself would likely have proved fatal, but the system of deceased being in very bad condition, it may have hastened his death. Following is the testimony elicited:

AN EYE-WITNESS OF THE TROUBLE.

Manus Donahoe, sworn—Am a member of the Relief Fire Company, No. 4; deceased was a member of the company; on Wednesday night, after 12 o'clock, I, with Sweeny, was in bed; Fred Wunderich was there; some words occurred, and Wunderich went to the door and left it open; we had words on it, and he put his fist under my nose; I objected, and he took up the poker and made a lick at me, but I beat him to it, and, following after, got another blow on the lip; Sweeny fell down, and Mr. Bushs came and helped to lift him up; he took Sweeny to the doctor's; two blows were struck; I was not hurt; Sweeny was struck once; Wunderich was intoxicated; Sweeny had been under the influence of liquor for some time; Sweeny was as capable of attending to his duties as generally; don't know that the blow was intended for Sweeny; don't know of any previous trouble between the parties; Wunderich appeared to regret the affair

TAKEN TO A DOCTORS.

Joseph Bushs, sworn: Am engineer of the Fire Company; was not present at the time of the difficulty; was in bed up-stairs; about twenty minutes after eleven o'clock on Wednesday night while sitting at the stove in the engine room there was a little fuss when policeman Moorhead threw his foot out to keep the parties apart; I ordered them not to do that and then went to bed; heard a noise and a fall; went down stairs and found Sweeny upon the floor bleeding, washed him and took him to the doctors; both Wunderich and Sweeny were under the influence of liquor that evening; I was down very soon after the fall; there appeared to have been a tussle; officer Wm Farnan came in after the fuss but would not arrest any one because he did not see the trouble.

EXCESSIVE DRINKING.

John Roney, sworn—Was acquainted with the deceased; kn w nothing about the occurrence; sat up with him one night; he said that he didn't think the blow was intended for him; he didn't say who struck the blow, and didn't appear to want to make much of the affair; he was in the habit of drinking; he was not a quarrelsome man, but was sometimes contrary.

John Steel, sworn—Am foreman of this company; know nothing about this trouble; was sleeping and did not hear the fuss; Sweeny drank; generally attended his duties; had no conversation with him; did not see him since; never knew them to have any trouble before.

SYMPTOMS OF MANIA POTU.

Dr. W. H. Sherridan sworn:

Between twelve and one o'clock on Thursday last, was called to sew up the lip of the deceased; he was bleeding profusely; I put three or four silver sutures; he was bleeding from the mouth and nose also; he appeared to be very much intoxicated, and was trembling all over; he told me that the wound in the lip was received from a blow with a poker in the hands of John P. Wunderlich on the morning of March 5th, 1874.

JAMES MCSWIGGEN,
PHILIP SMITH.

That Edward Sweeny came to his death on the morning of March 8, 1874, from delirium tremens, of

WM. J. FLINN,
L. B. MCMASTERS,
V. G. JONES,
GEORGE SCHUFFLE.

ACTION OF THE FIRE COMMISSION.

The monthly committee of the Board of Fire Commissioners also met this evening, for the purpose of taking such action with reference to the difficulty at the engine house as was found to be necessary. The committee consists of Messrs. Torley and Larimer, Mr. Wilson, President, and Mr. McIlvay of the Commission were also present. The Chief Engineer presented a charge against the foreman of the company for not promptly reporting the difficulty as required by the rules. The members of the company were examined by the committee as to the occurrence and as to the enforcement of the rules of the Commission. Mr. Steel, the foreman, stated that at a visit of the Chief on Thursday, just before noon, he told him, the Chief, as he was leaving in his vehicle, that there had been some trouble the previous night, but it did not amount to much. Mr. White instructed him to report in writing, but he had neglected to do so, being very busy.

After hearing all the statements, the committee discharged Mr. Wunderlich, who struck Sweeny, and suspended all the other members of the company for thirty days. In addition to this suspension, the foreman was fined fifteen dollars. Other firemen will be placed in charge by the Chief to-day.

Serious Accident.

A serious accident happened on Tuesday in Sharpsburg, to Mr. S. McCrickert, of the firm of McCrickert & Co., blacksmiths. He was getting up to sharpsburg in a carriage, in company with Mr. Wm. P. Gardner, of the People's Insurance Company, and another gentleman, on business. While driving through the village, the driver dropped his whip, and stopping the carriage started back to pick it up. The horses began to walk off with the three gentlemen in the close carriage, and no one on the box. The gentleman, whose name we did not learn, opened the door and jumped out with the intention of stopping the horses, but he fell head long on the street. Mr. Gardner also leaped out, but the horses by this time were running, and he fell violently on the ground, though neither sustained much injury. Mr. McCrickert remained in the carriage, and fared much worst. The horses ran about two squares, when the carriage struck foot of a post on the sidewalk, and almost demolished the vehicle. Mr. McCrickert was thrust violently through the window in the front of the carriage, and was very badly cut about the face. He also came very near losing his eyes. Another carriage was procured, and the parties returned to the city. Mr. McCrickert took the cars to his home at Edgewood, on the Pennsylvania Railroad, where he will be confined for several days to come.

STEAM BOILERS.

Semi-Annual Report of the Inspector.

AN INTERESTING DOCUMENT.

The Fees Insufficient to Compensate for the Duties Performed--Some Facts of Importance to the Public.

The law creating the office of Boiler Inspector for Allegheny county was one of considerable moment to the cities of Pittsburgh and Allegheny, where so many boilers are in constant use, and where thousands of lives are dependent upon their safe condition and proper management. In filling the office, the Governor made a good selection in the person of Mr. W. E. Russell, who, after six months' close attention to duty, makes this his first semi-annual report, as required by law.

We learn that there are about two thousand steam boilers in use in the county. By constant labor, with the aid of an experienced assistant, Mr. Ford, the Inspector, has been enabled to inspect about seven hundred and thirty boilers, or considerable less than one-half the number in the county. These are nearly all located in the manufacturing sections of the two cities, so that in point of time he is not near half through his work. The fees allowed by law are three dollars for each boiler, and when his own expenses and the expenses and salary of his assistant are deducted, he has but $536 61 for his six month's work! It was supposed by many that the office would have paid handsomely, but Mr. Russell's experience is that there is not a just compensation in it for a man who undertakes to discharge its duties with fidelity to the public and credit to himself. If, instead of getting into and underneath the boilers, and making a thorough examination of every part, the officer should content himself with a merely superficial inspection, the office would pay roundly. Had the latter plan been pursued, every boiler in the county could have been "looked[illegible]" during the past six months, and the officer would have been ready to enter upon his second year's inspection. But this would not only have been a non-compliance with the law, but a fraud upon the public, and a trifling with the lives of those engaged in our manufactories. Under the Constitution, the fees of the office cannot be increased, and we are not advised as to what course the Inspector intends to pursue. It is to be hoped that he will not be compelled to resign.

Of the boilers inspected, five were condemned as utterly unfit for use, and one hundred and fifteen were in bad condition. Fifteen were found without steam gauges, twelve had been overheated and injured through negligence, and fifty-five safety valves had been overloaded. There were inefficient feeding apparatus in two cases—in one of which the owner supplied the water by means of a pump through the safety valve! When the water was too low for safety, he took out the valve, filled up the boiler, and then fired up—running until the supply was again exhausted!

It will be seen that the report is very brief, the Inspector not having time to make a detailed statement:

OFFICE ALLEGHENY COUNTY BOILER INSPECTOR,
No. 326 PENN AVENUE, PITTSBURGH, PA. }

To His Excellency John F. Hartranft, Governor:

SIR—In placing before you my report of the business of this office for the past six months, ending February 28, 1874, the following details will give you some idea of what has been accomplished, as well as the importance of the work which the office has been created to perform:

Number of boilers inspected	730
Number of safety valves adjusted	378
Number of steam gauges attached	373
Number of boilers condemned	10
Number of boilers in bad condition and repaired	115
Number of boilers without steam gauges	15
Number of boilers overheated and injured through negligence in not keeping sufficient quantity of water in them	12
Safety valves overloaded, subjecting boilers to a dangerous pressure	55
Safety valves obstructed so as to render them useless	19
Incompetent persons having charge of boilers	3
New boiler plates or sheets	72
Number of mud drums or stand pipes	21
Number of boiler heads braced	23
Number of flues repaired	2
New flues	4
Inefficient feeding apparatus for supplying boilers with water	2
Improperly constructed steam connections	4

The steam boilers generally in use in Allegheny county are as follows: Double flued boilers; cylinder boilers; tubular boilers; Vegand sectional boilers, and Eclipse sectional boilers.

Of the above kinds, we find the double flued boiler more generally used than any other.

In pursuing the duties of this office, we find a disposition on the part of all steam users favorable to anything that is necessary looking to the safety of life and property. And further, that we believe the majority of accidents to steam boilers in this county could have been obviated by ignorance of condition and unknown causes, or from any willful neglect on the part of the steam user. We also find the duties of the office so arduous and occupying so much time, that sufficient of the time necessary to a full and detailed account of the workings of this office at the present time.

Respectfully,
W. E. RUSSELL, Inspector.

Expense of office:

Instruments, gauges, &c.	$301 00
Furnishing office	54 00
Stationery	95 25
Advertising	112 50
Expenses in pursuance of duty	187 29
Assistant Inspector's salary	900 00
	1,653 39
Balance in favor of office	$536 61

All of which is respectfully submitted.
W. E. RUSSELL, Inspector.

Sworn and subscribed before me this 4th day of March, 1874.
SAM. MCMASTERS, A.D.

PENNSYLVANIA RAILROAD.

Stockholders' Annual Meeting.

An Investigation of Affairs Asked by the Directors, and Ordered.

The twenty-seventh annual meeting of the stockholders of the Pennsylvania Central Railroad was held at Musical Fund Hall, Philadelphia, Tuesday. Mayor Stokley presiding. The hall was crowded, and much interest was manifested in the proceedings. The attendance of stockholders was the largest ever gathered at a similar meeting.

Appended to the annual report of the officers, which was read, were the following

RESOLUTIONS OF INVESTIGATION:

WHEREAS, A desire has been expressed by many shareholders that a committee should be appointed by this meeting to examine all the property of the company, and prepare a full exhibit of its real value; and

WHEREAS, The management of the company, desire, in order to meet the views of shareholders that a committee of stockholders be appointed to investigate the condition of the company in every respect; therefore, be it

Resolved, That the report of the Board of Directors as just read, be printed in pamphlet form for the information of the stockholders; that a committee of seven shareholders of this company, entirely disconnected from management and operation, be appointed by the chairman of this meeting and by him be requested to serve as a committee to examine into and report the condition of the company; to make an appraisement of the value of the roads, shops, machinery, real estate, depots, bonds, stocks, and all other assets of the company; also to examine into the liabilities and obligations of the company, including all its guarantees for other lines, with the source of revenue to meet the same; also its contracts and relations with other companies and parties in the interest and information of the shareholders, either by printed report for distribution or at their option by calling a meeting of the shareholders to present such report, giving thirty days' notice of such meeting by advertising in the usual form.

Resolved, That the President, Directors and officers of the company be requested to furnish such committee with all needful information and facilities to enable them to accomplish the object of their appointment.

Resolved, That the Chairman of this meeting be requested to appoint a committee of seven shareholders of this company to recommend, after conferring with the President, a ticket for directors to be voted by the shareholders at the next annual election as directed by the existing resolution, adopted by the shareholders February 1, 1858.

Resolved, That in the event of any of the shareholders declining, or being unable to serve on either of the foregoing committees, his honor, the Mayor of the city of Philadelphia, as chairman of this meeting, be authorized and requested to fill such vacancies by the appointment of other shareholders of this company, who may be in like manner entirely disconnected from its management and operations.

The resolutions, upon being read, were applauded, and much surprise was expressed by many who had intended attacking the present management.

Two stockholders opposed the resolutions as unnecessary, while a third presented resolutions of a similar character to those suggested by the officers. After considerable discussion these last were withdrawn and the above were adopted.

An attack was made upon Col. Thomas A. Scott, to which that gentleman replied.

LIST OF PATENTS.

Issued from the United States Patent Office to the Citizens of the States of Pennsylvania, Ohio and West Virginia, for the week ending March 4, 1874, and furnished for the COMMERCIAL from the office of J. McC. Perkins & Co., counselors at law and solicitors for American and foreign patents, Washington, D. C.:

PENNSYLVANIA.

Blackboard Rubber—John F. Roenick, Pittsburgh, assignor to himself and Samuel E. Gill, same place. Application filed December 23, 1873.

Car Axle Box—John I. Kinsey, South Easton. Application filed February 11, 1873.

Apparatus for Mixing Artificial Fuel—Emile F. Loiseau, Mauch Chunk. Application filed October 4, 1873.

Dumping Wagon—Hamilton Bailey, Harrisburg. Application filed September 23, 1873.

Shaft Coupling—Robert Wetherill, Chester. Application filed January 23, 1874.

Combined Dining and Ironing Table—Louis Berner, Lancaster. Application filed December 5, 1873.

Log Turner for Saw Mills—Edwd. H. Stearns, Erie. Application filed March 21, 1873.

Apparatus for Making Beef Tea—Thomas R. H. Johnson, Washington. Application filed November 6, 1873.

Chest for Teas, Coffees, &c.—George Gillibridge, Little Cooley. Application filed December 1, 1873.

FINANCE AND TRADE.

WEDNESDAY EVENING, March 11, 1874.

In local affairs there is but little animation, the dullness which prevails over the whole country characterizes all our markets. Perhaps an exception to this rule may be the Liberty street grocery and commission houses, who report some activity in sales, coming from the retail dealers of the immediate neighborhood.

At this season of the year it is singular to report an easy money market. A year ago we were going through one of the most stringent seasons ever experienced; the banks were strained to their utmost and commercial paper of undoubted standing was offered in every bank parlor in town. To-day, the money institutions here have plethoric deposits and are complaining of inability to make profitable investments, paper which will bear inquiry is scarce and readily absorbed without going out of the regular channels.

The increased value of the currency will not account for this, as all of the extra issue of the "reserves" has been absorbed by the Eastern cities; a decrease in the demand for money is the apparent cause of the increase of loanable funds in the banks; the inactive condition of our manufacturing interests calling for little or no borrowed capital,

—The stock market exhibits a considerable degree of activity, Erie showing the widest fluctuations. Concerning the new loan of this company offered in London, we learn that it is in the form of a second mortgage seven per cent. gold bond. The authorized amount of these bonds is $40,000,000, of which $10,000,000 are held by the company to take up $10,000,000 of convertible bonds now outstanding. Of the remaining $30,000,000 one-half is now offered, $15,000,000 of £3,000,000 through the London Banking Association. The prospectus was issued on the 6th inst.; the subscription books opened on the 9th and will close to-morrow. The price at which the bonds are offered is 78, or £156 for a £200 sterling bond. The friends of Erie anticipate a successful negotiation of these bonds.

—We have received from the publishers a copy of the *Age*, an insurance journal published in New York. As a rule the opinions expressed in professedly insurance newspapers are not entitled to much consideration, for they seem to be sort of free-lancers in literature, whose steel-pointed spears are at the service of the highest bidder who one day praise and the next defame the same object. Having had some experience with these gentry, we speak from experience.

For about two years one of the insurance periodicals has been filled with bitter and unsparing attacks on the Mutual Life Insurance Company. Its enmity seemed to date from the announcement of the proposed reduction of rates by the Mutual Life, and to emanate from the Chamber of Life Insurance. At that time we took occasion to speak a word in favor of the course decided on by the Mutual, which was so far appreciated as to bring an acknowledgment of their indebtedness. Since that date nearly every page of the insurance journal in question has been a venomous blister applied directly and unmercifully to the Mutual Life and its President, speaking in correspondingly laudatory terms of the Chamber of Life Insurance.

The editor was indicted and sent to jail, when suddenly, to the surprise of the public, the Mutual Life becomes a member of the Chamber of Life Insurance; Mr. Winston holds the dual position of President of both organizations, and the editor in question comes out of his incarceration,—a compromise which reflects credit on none of the parties concerned, least of all upon the Mutual Life and its officers.

This we refer to only as an example of the manner in which the insurance press is usually run,—hired to produce black-mail any company or person its patrons direct.

The *Age*, however, seems to be conducted in the interest of policy holders rather than policy issuers—on the principle that "the world is wide, that there are more dissatisfied policy holders than there are companies, and that there are still paper, printer's ink, independence, manhood and brains not owned and controlled" by any insurance company or combination of companies.

If the *Age* but stick to this, we predict for it the large circulation and ample success it deserves.

—The following table shows the prices of gold, government bonds, railway stocks, etc., at the various sessions of the New York Stock Exchange, during the day. Furnished by Luther S. Kauffman, broker, 96 Fourth avenue:

March 11, 1874.	10:30 A.M.	11:30 A.M.	12:30 P.M.	1:30 P.M.	2:30 P.M.	3:00 P.M.
Gold	111¾	111¾	111¾	111¾	112	112
U. S. 6's, 1881			119½			119½
U. S. 6's, 1881 coupons	119½		119½			119½
U. S. 5-20's, 1865			118¾			118¾
U. S. 5-20's, 1864	119¼		119¼			119¼
U. S. 5-20's, 1865	118¾		118¾			118¾
U. S. 5-20's, 1865, new	118¾		118¾			118¾
U. S. 5-20's, 1867	118¾		118¾			118¾
U. S. 5-20's, 1868	119		119			119
U. S. 10-40's	113¾		113¾			113¾
U. S. 10-40's, coupons	113¾		113¾			113¾
Currency 6's	118½		118½			118½
New 5 per cents	114¾		114¾			114¾
Hannibal & St. Jo.	30					
Canton	74					
Western Union Telegh	74½		75			75
Quicksilver	28		28			28
Pacific Mail	45		45			45
L. S. & M. S.	93½		93½			93½
Adams Express			96			
Wells Fargo Express			96			
American Express			61½			61½
United States Express			64			64
New York Central	104½	104½	104½	104½	105	105
Erie	44¼	44¼	44¼	44¼	44¼	44¼
Michigan Central			96			96
Michigan Southern	93½		93½			93½
Illinois Central	108		108			108
Cleveland & Pittsburgh			96			96
Chicago & Northwestern	82½		82½			82½
Do. Preferred						
Rock Island	103½	103½	103½	103½	103½	103½
Ft. Wayne	96		96			96
Do Preferred						
Walash	24		24			24
A. and P. Preferred			37½			37½
Fort Wayne	94		94			94
Ohio and Mississippi	30¾		30¾			30¾
Union Pacific	24½		24½			24½
Chicago and Alton	104		104			104
Panama	131		131			131
Boston, Hartford & Erie	11¾		11¾			11¾
Harlem						
Terre Haute	11	11¾	11			11¼
Tennessee State bonds			74			74
Do new			73			73
South Carolinas, April			18½			18½
Do July			18½			18½
Missouri 6's			94			94

—Robinson & Co., bankers, Fourth avenue, furnish the following report of active stocks at the Philadelphia Board:

Penna. R. R.	57½
Penna. Sterling	87½
Reading	57
United Co.'s New Jersey	123
Old Creek	17
Lehigh Valley	91
A. V. R. R.	44
Central Transportation	52
Empire Transportation	

Market active with large dealings in Pennsylvania Central; sales about 28,000 shares.

PITTSBURGH OIL TRADE.

OFFICE OF THE PITTSBURGH COMMERCIAL, THURSDAY, March 12, 1874.

REMARKS—The market was entirely devoid of animation to-day. We have seen no disposition among dealers to operate. Prices in the oil regions appear to have touched bottom. If such proves to be the situation we may soon look for an improvement. The receipts of crude continues large—in excess of any year since oil was discovered.

CRUDE.

There was nothing done here. The following are the sales reported at

PARKER'S.

7,000 bbls United ..... $1 60@
4,000 bbls Union ..... 1 65@1 70

Other dispatches quoted Union $1 60@1 65; United $1 55@1 60.

REFINED.

We have not a single new feature to notice in regard to prices or demands. The current rates at the works free on cars 19½c; in a jobbing way, the usual advance is obtained.

Philadelphia—Market quiet at 14¾c; April 14¾@15c; May 15¾@15¾c.

New York—Spot 14¾c; first half April 15c.

OIL BARRELS.

Market quiet; city $1 70; country $1 65.

TITUSVILLE, March 11.—The "Herald" says: On the upper oil sand lots were selling at $1 70, and large lots could with difficulty be purchased at $1 75. Market at Parker's $1 65@1 70 for Union and $1 60 for United pipes. Sales:

1,000 bbls upper road, spot $1 75
500 bbls upper road, spot 70
500 bbls upper road, spot 1 72½
1,000 bbls upper road, spot 75
2,000 bbls Parkers, United 1 60
2,000 bbls Parkers, United 1 60
2,000 bbls Parkers, Union 1 60
2,500 bbls Parkers, Union 1 65
5,000 bbls Parkers, Union 1 70

ROUSEVILLE, March 11.—Market quiet at $1 55.

TIDIOUTE, March 11.—Market quiet and weak at $1 45@.

PETROLEUM CENTER, March 11.—Market quiet and dull; quoted at $1 65@1 70.

OIL CITY, March 11.—Market not opened; nominal at $1 65@1 70.

TITUSVILLE, March 11.—Market weak at $1 70.

PARKER'S, March 11.—Market quiet and but little doing; Union pipe $1 60@1 65; United pipe about $1 57½; other rates $1 @1 55.

NEW YORK, March 11—Closing 10.—Crude, in bulk, offered at 12c from first hands; 6½c for contracts, without buyers; shipping order at 10¾c; sales of 3,000 bbls. Refined weak at 14¾c for spot; 15c bid for first half April; 5,000 bbls first half April sold at 15c. Cases quiet at 20½c. Philadelphia quiet; refined 14¾c; 3,000 bbls sold at this price; asks last March 14¾c.

PHILADELPHIA, March 11.—Market quiet; S. W. 14¾c; crude 6¾c; cases 19c; sales none; futures, April, 14¾@15c; May, 15¾@15¾c.

Crude Oil Received by A. V. R. R.

Shipper.	Consignee.	Bbls.
S. W. Young	Cosmos O. W.	468
Bushnell	Crystal O. W.	692
Duncan	American O. W.	692

Coal at New Orleans.

We are indebted to Mr. C. A. Miltenberger, coal commission merchant, No. 83 Camp street, New Orleans, for the following list of coal on hand at Wilkow Grove Coal Landing, March 1st, 1874:

Owners' names.	Bushs.	Barges.
N. J. Bigley	7	
T. Fawcett	14	2
John A. Wood & Sons	11	2
Simpson Hill & Co.	21	
Riddle, Coleman & Co.	8	
R. & J. Watson	9	
O'Neil & Co.	1	3
McGowan & Connell	8	
J. Neal	2	
H. H. Collins	3	
George Lysle & Sons	10	2
Grand Lake Coal Co.	3	
Hodgson & Moate	3	
N. O. Gas Light Co.	15	
Morgan Line Steamers	6	
F. & R. De Verges	1	
Middle Gas Light	3	
Bradish Johnson	2	
Towboat Association	2	
Total	124	9

Consumption during February, 21 boats and 17 barges. Arrivals, 7 boats and 7 barges.

Nashville Market.

NASHVILLE, March 11.—Flour, grain and provisions quiet and unchanged in every respect. Whisky 98c.

PRODUCE AND GENERAL MARKET.

OFFICE OF THE DAILY COMMERCIAL, WEDNESDAY, March 11, 1874.

REMARKS—The weather is clear and cold, with extremely high winds. Trade, however, seems to be little affected by the weather, let it rain or shine. Dullness is the order of the day, and so it will remain until the financial problem is settled in some manner.

There have been few changes in prices since our last report worthy of special mention. The market is quiet, with holders indisposed to make concessions, believing that prices have reached the lowest point, and that "upward and onward" will be the watchword for the future.

The rivers continue in good navigable condition, and a reference to our import column will convince the most skeptical of the value of steamboats to the wealth and commerce of the city. Why, then, should not the Ohio river improvement be pushed vigorously forward?

With the settlement of the currency question by Congress (which it is thought will be at an early day,) and the opening up of the spring and summer trade, we expect to see a return of the good times that ruled in days of yore.

Below will be found the receipts of produce, by rail and river for the past twenty-four hours:

Flour, bbls	1,895	Apples, bbls	220
Wheat, sks	840	Corn, sks	283
Rye, sks	11	Barley, sks	2,210
Butter, pkgs	114	Oats, sks	333
Bacon, tcs	22	Potatoes, bush	1,350

The following are the receipts of the leading articles of produce for the past two weeks:

	Last week.	Total.
Flour, bbls	8,267	9,428
Apples, bbls	1,003	1,223
Cheese, bxs	41	278
Corn, sks	4,946	8,025
Wheat, sks	1,912	2,591
Barley, sks	3,886	5,008
Rye, sks	1,615	918
Oats, sks	4,132	4,456
Butter, pkgs	382	447
Bacon, lbs	11,250	8,147
Bacon, tcs	483	155

Before proceeding to give the quotations of the market, as usual, we remarked, the changes are few and far between—we desire to repeat an oft reiterated advice to our country friends. It is this: In sending your products to market be careful as to the manner in which it is prepared and shipped. For example, sweet, clean corn should be put together "shelter skelter," will not command its value, but had a little care been taken to put up the article in neat prints or small rolls, and packing the same in smooth boxes, it would have met ready sale at full prices. Our country readers will please make a note of this.

As this copy of the COMMERCIAL will reach most of the readers of the Weekly we feel impelled to again call their attention to the fact that the prices we give, as a general rule, are WHOLESALE. It is not our business what a dealer *pays* for his goods or wares, but what he will *sell* them at wholesale. There is another matter which might be mentioned. A market is written up on Saturday, printed on Monday, reaches its destination next day, and goods are shipped in the hope of realizing the figures of Saturday. But what changes may have occurred in the meantime? Prices may have gone up or down in the interim, and would it not be the sheerest folly to hold the consignee or the newspaper responsible for the shrinkage in prices from quotations?

But we will not extend our remarks to a much greater length, and will close by saying that all the leading articles of trade and commerce are unchanged in price. Dealers are all hopeful of a revival of trade in the spring.

Below will be found the wholesale prices of the market, unless otherwise noted:

APPLES—Choice $3 50a $4 00 ₩ bbl.; common to fair $2 50a$3 00.

ALES—$ 5 60 per bbl; XX $9; India ale $10 ₩ bbl; Bass's English ale, in hhds, $30; in qr-hhds, $16; in 8ths, $9; in qr-casks, $5; in 8th casks, $3; Guinness's stout, bottled, $9 ₩ doz; Guinness's stout, in hhds, $30; in qr-hhds, $16; in 8th casks, $9; Cantrell & Cochrane's ginger ale, $2 25 ₩ doz; Caswell, Hazard & Co.'s ginger ale, $1 75 ₩ doz.

ASHES—Soda, 5½c; first sorts, 5c; second sorts, 4½c; potash, 9c; pearl, 10c; arsenic, 5c; black lead, 5c.

APPLE BUTTER—Sales choice at 7½@8c ₩ gallon; common 6c.

BACON AND PROVISIONS—Hams, sugar cured, extra, 13½c; shoulders, sugar cured, 9c; ₩ 5-c; breakfast bacon, sugar cured, 12c; dried beef, extra sugar cured, 9½@10c; beef tongues, sugar cured, 9 doz, $7; fat backs, sugar cured, 8c; do rib sides, 7½, 8½c; do short rib sides, 8, 9½c; do clear sides, 8½, 9½c; do shoulders, 6½c; barrel pork, ₩ bbl, $17 00; lard, prime leaf in tierces, 9 ₩ lb, 10½c; refined do, for summer use, in half bbls, 9 ₩ lb, 10½c; refined do, in 3 lb caddies, 12½c; refined, 3 lb pails, 13½c; refined do, in 5 lb pails, 13½c; refined do, in 6 lb pails, 12½, 13c; hams, sugar cured, 13½@14c.

BUTTER—Prime table 44@45 ₩ lb; medium to good 38@42c; common to good 33@37c. We hear of some sales as high as 48c, but they are exceptional.

BUCKWHEAT FLOUR—The demand is light. Sales in a small way reported at $3@$3 25 ₩ bbl.

BEANS—Sales of prime white navy at $2 00@2 50; common can be had at $1 75@2 00.

BROOM CORN—Red and red topped at 5¾@6½c; fair to good green 7½@8¾c; hurl 9½@10c ₩ lb.

BROOMS—Sales 2 sewed at $1 75@2 00; with sides reported at 2½c ₩ lb.

BROOMS—No. 2, $2 ₩ doz; No 8, $3 50 ₩ doz; 4, $2 25 doz; No 5, $2 ₩ doz; carpet brooms, $3 ₩ doz; toy brooms and whisps $1 50@2 00. In a jobbing way, from store, 25@37½c ₩ doz higher than above quotations.

BANNER BAKING POWDER—1 lb cans $1 60; ½ do do $3 00; 1 lb do $5 50; 5 lb cans $17; 10 lb box, $1, 40.

CARBON OIL—Free on board at works 12½c in barrels, with the usual advance on small lots from store.

CUTTON GOODS—Penn Mill No. 1, sheeting 8¼c; Juniata R, fine 9¼c; Penn Mill to Juniata R, fine 8½c; No. 1 yarn 32c; No. 1 Juniata cotton chain, 31c; do, colored 33c; cotton batting 16c; cotton twine 31c.

CANNED GOODS—Tomatoes, 2 lb cans, ₩ doz, $2 50; 3 lb pie peaches, ₩ doz, $2 50; Winslow's corn, $2 95; peas 90 ₩ doz; Portland sugar corn $2 25 ₩ doz; 3 lb tomatoes, ₩ doz, $2 25@2 50; 2 lb peaches, ₩ doz, $3 50; 3 lb pumpkin, ₩ doz, $2 50.

CHEESE—Prime Ohio 13½@14c; factory 16½@17c to the trade, and in a jobbing way 17@17½c; Young America 18c; Nutting 19c. Prime to choice Ohio sweitzer 18@19c.

CIDER—Sales at $7 00@8 00 per bbl.

CRANBERRIES—Sales at $9 50@10 ₩ bbl. There are few box berries in the market.

COUNTRY BACON—Bacon hams 9@10c; clear sides 8½@9c; shoulders 6½@7c; sugar cured hams 10@10½c; shoulders 6¾@7c ₩ lb.

COUNTY LARD—Sales at 8@9c.

CONFECTIONERY—Sales at $7 50@8 ₩ case of four dozen packages.

CRACKERS—Lemon biscuit 11½c; ginger snaps, 12¾c; oyster crackers 7c; soda crackers 7c; sugar crackers 9¾c; butter crackers 7c; water crackers 9¾c ₩ lb.

CEMENT—Louisville hydraulic cement $2 25 ₩ barrel; Phœnix hydraulic cement $2 25; Rosendale cement $3 50; Portland cement $6 50 ₩ bbl.

DRIED FRUIT—Apples 8a10c ₩ lb; mixed peaches 10a12c; halves 14a16c; quarters and eighths 8a9c.

EGGS—Strictly fresh 18@20c ₩ doz. Pickled not wanted.

FISH—No 1 extra mess mackerel $36; No 1 mess mackerel $34; No 1 shore mackerel $28; extra No 1 family mackerel $19; No 1 bay mackerel $17; extra No 2 mackerel $17; No 2 bay mackerel $14; large No 3 mackerel $12 50; No 3 mackerel $10; split Labrador herring $9 25; white fish $7 50@8 00; trout $6 50@7 00; large Georges codfish $7@7 50 $100; medium Georges codfish $6 50 @ $100; red herring, scales, 50c ₩ box; No 1 25c ₩ box.

FLOUR—Market quiet and rates unchanged. The stocks are not heavy, but there is not much call for demand. We quote as follows: White wheat flour at $6 50@10 00; red winter, $5 00; Minnesota, spring $7 00@7 25 ₩ bbl.

FEATHERS—No 1, 78a80c ₩ lb; No 2, 70a72c, as to quality and quantity.

GROCERIES—Market quiet, firm and prices unchanged. The trade is reported improving. We quote as follows:

COFFEE—Green, choice, 34c; prime 33c; good 30@31c; fair 29@30c; Java 38@40c. Roasted coffee—in papers 25c; in bulk 24@c; Java 42@43c.

TEA—Young Hyson 60@70c; gunpowder 50c@$1 25; Imperial 50@$1; Japan 55@$1 ₩ lb; Oolong 70@85c ₩ lb; fancy $1 ₩ lb; Souchong 25@50c ₩ lb.

SUGAR—Standard Ex C 10¾c; Standard B 10¾c; Standard A 10¾c; Standard Granulated 11c.

MOLASSES—Strictly prime New Orleans 75c; choice 68c, and scarce; old or p 65@70c, and prime 65c; Rangoon 58.

GRAIN—The receipts of all cereals are light though fully equal to the demand. Ear and shelled corn is in better demand. We quote: Shelled corn, in bulk, $1 70; red winter $1 55@1 60. Corn—sales at 70@72c per bushel; shelled 66@70c. Oats 52@55c, as to quality. Barley—Canada, $1 15@1 20; Western, $1 10@1 15 with light demand.

HONEY—Choice clover 40c ₩ lb; buckwheat 30@35c.

HOMINY—Sales at $4 50@5 25 ₩ bbl.

HIDES—1874's at 8@9c; 1873's 7½@8½c; 1872's 7½ @10c.

HAY—Baled $19@20 ₩ ton; wagon $25@27.

SAPOLIO—Cases of 6 dozen, $6; hand sapolio, cases of 6 dozen, $5.

LARD OIL—Prices have dropped a fraction, and we quote No 1 at 82@85c per gallon, and No 2 at 62@65c.

MAPLE SUGAR AND MOLASSES—Receipts large and prices weaker. Sales: Gallon jugs, $1 65@1 75; in kegs, 8½@9c; cake sugar, in cakes, 15@15½c ₩ lb; granulated, 16@16½c.

MILL FEED—Bran $1 65@1 10; middlings $1 40@1 50.

ONIONS—Sales prime silver skins at $7@7 50; Top Setts $3@3 50.

POTATOES—Peachblows $1 20@1 25, in truck; and $1 30@1 35 in store.

POULTRY—Dressed chickens 13@15c; turkeys 16@18c; ducks 13@15c.

RISING SUN STOVE POLISH—Retail dealers supplied at $6 ₩ gross.

SALT—Sales at $1 60 ₩ bbl by car lots, and $1 80@1 85 in jobbing lots.

TALLOW—Sales at 6½@7c ₩ lb.

TAGGS—Sales woolen at 4c; cotton 3c ₩ lb.

SEEDS—Timothy seed $3 40@3 50; clover $5 40@6 50 ₩ bushel.

WHISKY—Sales of high wines at 95c@$1.

WOOL MARKETS.

NEW YORK.

March 4.—There is but little animation displayed. The few manufacturers that are in the market are purchasing only small lots. Prices appear firm for all descriptions, with the exception of fall California, which at the moment is dull and declining. Large stocks have not been as active as the first side of last week, but still there is a fair trade doing. With prices very firmly maintained. Fleeces and pulled wools meet with a fair inquiry, but the stock is very light, there being but few choice selections here. The sales comprise 35 bales Cape at 21½@32c;

Weekly Commercial.

SATURDAY, MARCH 14, 1874.

Wanted.

WEEKLY COMMERCIALS of the following dates to complete our files: February 24th, July 15th and September 9th 1870, and March 1st, 1873.

THE New York *Graphic* calls for "a comic lieutenant." Our first thought was of Sunset Cox; our next that he only filled half the bill for being no statesman.

THE Supreme Court of the United States has decided that a national bank, organized under the act of 1864, cannot acquire a valid lien upon the shares of its stockholders by virtue of the articles of association or its by-laws. This decision is of general interest and importance.

HERE and there the "Liberal Republicans" are again beginning to issue courageous resolutions and "protests." They always do preparatory to general elections—completing the cycle with elaborate explanations of how their orchards came to be so barren of fruitage, afterwards.

THE people of Jersey City have had their fill of being governed by "Commissions," and the State Legislature, at their recess, has passed a bill abolishing these intermediary agencies and returning the municipal government of that city into the hands of the people.

ACTIVE preparations are being made for the opening of the Union canals. Transportation will commence over the Delaware and Raritan canal on the 16th instant, and the Lehigh Navigation, the Delaware division and the Schuylkill canals are expected to be in full operation before the first of April. It is anticipated that the spring trade will be unusually brisk.

THE Democratic party, through its representatives in Congress, has at length, and formally, repudiated TWEED. That is to say, it as asked and procured the passage of a bill hanging the name of a steamboat bearing that illustrious cognomen. After the performance if an act of such heroic honor and virtue, the arty will doubtless feel a great deal better.

THE Chicago *Tribune* of Sunday publishes a st of the insurance companies of that city hat were ruined by the fire; from which it ppears that the number of these companies hat have been adjudicated bankrupt is eleven, nd the percentage of prospective dividends oubtful in nearly every case except one hich is expected to settle with its creditors in ull.

THE New Orleans *Picayune* complains that he colored people in Grant parish, Louisiana, re "thoroughly armed with Enfield rifles." t very sensible and prudent mode of preparaion, we think, against the possible descent of nother horde of white butchers such as the ang of McENERY cut-throats who, last April, urned that parish into a sickening field of lood.

THE total imports at the port of New York or last week, exclusive of specie, amounted to $8,643 543 against $9,204,893 for the corresponding week in 1873. The imports since the rst of January reach $70,462,901, against $84,-09,132 for the corresponding period of last ear. The dry goods imports continue to show marked decrease, being for the week $2,384,-21, against $4,033,514 last year, and $3,878,577 in 1872.

THE settlers of the treeless districts in Iowa, Nebraska and Dakotas need no longer complain of a lack of fuel. An immense mine of cannel coal, reported to be fully equal to the best annel coal of this State, has recently been discovered in the western portion of Iowa. The vein is said to extend for miles. This discovery should give a marked impetus to manufacturing enterprises in that hitherto comparatively fuelless region.

THE people of New York city are every day becoming more and more alarmed at the diversion of the Western grain trade from New York to Philadelphia, Baltimore and Boston, where it takes steam for Europe direct, and the Mayor has communicated the apprehension in a special message to the Common Council, but he does not seem to know what to do about it. Suppose the Gothamites were to try the power of an injunction.

AT the municipal election in Rochester, New York, last week, the Ward Inspectors, Messrs. JONES and MARSH, who were made famous by being prosecuted for registering and receiving the votes of Miss ANTHONY and others, were re-elected inspectors by a large majority. These gentlemen who, it will be remembered, were imprisoned for non-payment of the fines imposed on them, were paroloned by President GRANT a few days prior to he election.

THURLOW WEED and the other Eastern gentlemen who object to a large appropriation to he Centennial, want to have a big time in 1876, but they do not want it to cost anything. They remind us of the niggardly religionist who boasted that he had enjoyed religion for a quarter of a century and it had not cost him a cent. "God bless your stingy soul!" said his pastor; and in applying that prayer to the gentlemen alluded to we may be excused for adding a fervent "Amen!"

THE Philadelphia Sunday Liquor law bids fair to be enforced hereafter by the voluntary action of the liquor dealers themselves. The *Bulletin* of that city states that the Supreme Council of the Liquor Dealers' Protective Association has adopted a resolution requesting every member to close his place of business every Sunday, hereafter. The association includes every licensed establishment in the city. This movement is every way commendable and ought everywhere to be imitated.

THE Maryland Court of Appeals has just decided the law passed by the Legislature of that State in 1872, imposing a tax of two cents on every ton of coal mined in the Commonwealth, to be unconstitutional. The validity of the act was contested by the Cumberland and Pennsylvania Railroad Company, which was held not only for the tax but a penalty of ten per cent. on the amount of tax due. The court decided the tax in contravention not only of the Constitution of the United States, but of that of Maryland.

THE chairman of the Committee on War Claims, it appears, takes the ground that the government is liable to pay for property used, occupied or destroyed by the armies of the United States during the war of the rebellion. If the committee are not wholly deaf to the popular voice, they will reject his report without scruple. Its adoption by Congress would let loose upon the Treasury a caravan of insatiate claimants long enough, almost, to reach to the edge of doom, and would saddle the country with millions upon millions of expense.

EVEN since the holding of the last National Republican Convention, Senator SUMNER seems to have cherished an implacable enmity toward Pennsylvania in general, and Philadelphia in particular—nursing the memory of the total defeat of the machinations into which his personal animosities led him, as undyingly and vengefully as every true Frenchman is said to nurse the memory of Waterloo and the hope that his country may ultimately take vengeance on *perfide Albion*. This, unquestionably, is the secret of the incessant unpatriotic efforts which that falsely esteemed place-holder has made to defeat the Centennial Appropriation bill. We wish him joy of his spleen.

WHO knows but that we stand upon the threshold of a new pastoral age? The superintendent of one of the largest print companies in New England states that they are about to begin the manufacturing of calicoes on an immense scale, expressly for the Grangers. The patterns embrace sheaves of wheat, growing corn, miniature hay stacks, trees loaded with fruit, etc. Young ladies in the rural districts will present a rather comical appearance when in the spring and summer they appear in new dresses covered all over with emblems of the above description. But they will carry their own way none the less easily and winsomely —for, as BYRON says, a young girl's garments always possess—

"A mystical sublimity,
No matter whether rascet, silk or dimity."

LEARNING a lesson from the late panic, although the savings banks of that State were not molested by any "runs" at the time, but with an eye to the future, the Massachusetts Legislature proposes to appoint a Board of Commissioners to examine the savings institutions in the State. A feeling of jealousy and anxiety has arisen in these times of defalcations in many minds, owing to the large sums of money accumulating in trust corporations. There are $250,000,000 in the savings banks of that Commonwealth, and it is proposed for a Board of Examiners to look after all this money—to make frequent reports as to the evidences, securities, paper, etc., and to look after the officers, too. A good idea, in the main, and one which other States might perhaps turn to profitable advantage.

A SOMEWHAT important opinion, touching properly in spirituous liquors, has just been delivered in the United State Supreme Court, in a case from Iowa. The court held that the right to sell such liquors is not one of the privileges and immunities of the citizens of the United States, which, by the Fourteenth constitutional amendment, the States are forbidden to abridge; but that if a case were presented in which a person owned liquor or other property at the time the law was passed by a State absolutely prohibiting any sale of it, it would be a very grave question whether such a law would not be inconsistent with the provision of that amendment, which forbids a State to deprive any person of life, liberty or property without due process of law. The case in issue did not present that question, and hence the court did not consider it; still the inference is quite plain that the Supreme Bench holds the summary feature of prohibitory laws to be unconstitutional.

AMERICAN ORATORY.

Among a numerous class of the friends of education not a little surprise was felt at the favor with which prominent college presidents and professors were said to regard the project of "inter-collegiate contests." The contests were to be oratorical. So much was settled irrespective of details. Students of various colleges, selected by their fellows as the best orators of their number, were to deliver speeches in the presence of duly appointed judges and of such auditors as might choose to assemble on the occasion, and the most worthy of the contestants would bear off the palm of victory. This was the project which a convention of students met some weeks ago in Hartford to consider, and found practicable to carry out. Colonel HIGGINSON made a speech to the convention, in which he mentioned some advantages of such a contest and gave wise suggestions as to its management. Letters were also read from five or six distinguished gentlemen, most of them college professors, and these letters seem to have been understood in a sense favorable to it by the friends of the project. However, the convention called forth little enthusiasm or even interest in the young men present, while the slimness of the attendance evinced marked indifference to the enterprise on the part of the colleges of the country. Only five or six of them were represented, and from the statements of some of the delegates, since published, it appears that they had been appointed merely to observe and report proceedings for the guidance of their fellow students; in other words, to enable them to decide whether or no it would be worth while to take part in the movement. The letters, also, which were hastily supposed to sanction it, are easily understood, on careful examination, to bear a different meaning. In fact, only very young readers, desiring and hoping for approval of a cherished scheme, could have failed to perceive that most of the writers intended politely and kindly to discourage the attempt.

But there are leading men who confidently look for good results from the inter-collegiate contest in oratory, which seems likely to be instituted on a narrow scale, and to be thus fairly tried. The consideration which more than any other urges for the scheme the favor of some is the probable or possible influence of the infusion of a distinctly intellectual element into the annual competition of the colleges in physical strength. After being almost shamefully neglected during many years, physical culture has at length attained in some of the colleges a prominence which threatens to supersede all other culture. The tendency finds powerful stimulus in the natural man, especially in the natural boy. Study, really strenuous mental exertion, never comes easy and agreeable to a boy; usually from the first the effort is more or less painful, and only repeated trials resulting in habit enable the student to comprehend the delight as well as the duty of intellectual toil. It is safe to say that thousands in all countries pass through college without the experience; whereas the spontaneous activity of boyhood enables the dullest or least imaginative youth to anticipate the pleasures derivable from physical culture. And he is besides stimulated to excel it it by the ever ready and unstinted applause of companions and others. The rival culture receives little encouragement from that source. But oratory, though an intellectual performance, yet lies within the appreciation of all, and commands their applause, and therefore the addition of an oratorical contest to the contests in boating, running, etc., will, some think, have an excellent effect even upon the element of physical competition. While not lessening zeal for physical culture, it will tend to harmonize it with other aims and to keep it healthy and moderate.

It has also been urged in favor of such a contest among the colleges that it would awaken enthusiasm for the noblest kinds of eloquence, and inspire the ardor needful for its cultivation. If all or only a majority of the colleges united in the contest, the affair would possess a national interest. The names of the chosen orators would be in everybody's mouth, the victor would be a national hero, and even the defeated would find adequate compensation in the glory of having been deemed worthy of a part in the struggle. Another argument urged in favor of the scheme is that the oratorical contest, as a first step in the way of innovation upon the annual athletic festivals, would prepare the way for inter-collegiate competition in scholarship.

No doubt, if the principal colleges of the country could be so connected as to render them rivals in efficiency, it might be a good thing. Excellent results would almost certainly flow from the establishment of an organization, by which the comparative merits of the instructors of different colleges and of their methods, could be ascertained in the comparative scholarship of their students. Nor is it unlikely that before many years some system will be devised by which the ardor and emulation of both professors and students may be thus stimulated. But we confess that the addition of a contest in oratory to the athletic sports already in vogue, does not seem to us to promise advantage either to scholarship or eloquence. One inevitable effect of the institution would be to distract the attention of many young men from the solid studies which lie at the foundation of a sound education. To a young man who hopes to figure in the eye of the nation as the orator of his college, mathematics and the natural sciences, not to mention Latin and Greek, must appear small, unworthy and even puerile pursuits, and of course a large proportion of the students would be candidates for the honor and by assiduous cultivation of oratory would labor to acquire it. The unhealthy excitement of an election struggle thrown into the college would also greatly interfere with the proper pursuits of the place.

Nor do we believe that eloquence any more than scholarship would be a gainer by such competition. In the present age of the world eloquence to be worth having or listening to must rest upon a broad and deep foundation of knowledge, and college is the place for its acquisition. The *Christian Union* newspaper, when recommending the oratorical contest, the other day, mentioned the "present disdain of oratory in America as a shallow, narrow, cynical sentiment." It may be so, but it is undoubtedly the mere result of reaction. During a long period the impression was widely prevalent that oratory was everything in the race for political distinction and success, and oratory was supposed to consist in fluency of speech and in the command of high flown sentiments. In many of the colleges students who aspired to become lawyers or public characters neglected the prescribed studies for reading adapted, as they fancied, to improve their style and furnish them with facts suitable for popular addresses. The same method was pursued by young men outside of the colleges who strove to educate themselves. These were the orators who at last made oratory contemptible, and gave rise to the general disdain of which the *Union* spoke. In Congress and elsewhere the same orators have exposed themselves and their country to the laughter of the world, by the display of their confident and voluble ignorance. It may be that reaction has carried us too far, but certainly it is too soon yet, by extraordinary means, to revive in our college boys the old familiar rage for eloquence. Let them fill their heads with well digested knowledge and the needful oratory will come in the course of time.

"CHEAP" TRANSPORTATION.

It would be a great blessing if people could always learn to say what they really mean. The Grangers of Iowa have been ringing the changes on "cheap" transportation so long, and making that the supreme issue with so much pertinacity, that we had come to the conclusion that they really meant what they said; yet here is a bill which has just passed the Iowa House of Representatives, by a vote of 92 to 4, fixing the rates of transportation, which seem to us to be anything but "cheap." The bill arranges railroads in three classes. On the railroads of the first class the rates of passenger fare are to be three cents per mile; on the second class three and one-half cents; and on the third four cents. If these rates are "cheap" we would be glad to know what rates they consider dear out there. In this part of the world, either of the three would be considered dear; most certainly none of them would be thought cheap. The Pennsylvania Road sells commutation tickets at two cents a mile, good for fifty trips; and mileage tickets are sold on our Western roads, good for one thousand miles, at two and one-half cents a mile, while the regular rates in no case exceed three cents a mile. The minimum price fixed in this Iowa law, is the maximum rate here, and that, too, without competition.

The use of terms which are merely relative, and do not convey an absolute meaning, are therefore apt to be deceptive as political warcries. When the Western farmers demanded "cheap" transportation, we thought they meant something much lower than what they have fixed; and now that they have made plain what they really mean by that term, we are not surprised at their views on the subject. If the Iowa railroads have been charging rates of transportation so high that those fixed in the law to which we have referred may be considered "cheap" in comparison, then they have been bearing a very heavy burden—so heavy that we do not marvel at their revolting under it. The demand they make for the rates they have specified are not unreasonable; and if they had gone one cent lower, all round, in fixing the rates, there would have been little the cause for astonishment. The railroads, in our judgment, will have no cause to complain of the prices fixed for them by the farmer legislators of Iowa.

USELESS PATENTS.

We have received a copy of a pamphlet written by Mr. JOHN HABERMEHL, of Allegheny City, on the pertinent subject of useless patents. The Patent Office is admitted to be one of the most useful adjuncts of the government; but its privileges are being shamefully abused by patentees, who persist in taking out patents for the most worthless devices. The writer notes the fact that, during the past nine years, upwards of one hundred thousand patents have been issued, of which about ninety-seven per cent. are said to be useless. Thirty thousand applications were rejected during the same period, making one hundred thousand applications in nine years—or more than double the number made during the preceding seventy-five years. It must be apparent that, should this ratio of increase be continued long, it would require half the public buildings in Washington to accommodate the rubbish in the shape of models, and a regiment of examiners to attend to the applications. Mr. HABERMEHL contends that the mere expense of the office, great as that is, or may become, is not the only evil; hundreds of thousands of dollars are filched annually from the pockets of the people by dishonest "patent rights" dealers, and venders of useless inventions and implements. These catch-penny contrivances outnumber the useful inventions over ninety per cent., and there is no estimating the loss entailed upon those who are gulled into purchasing. The writer suggests a number of plans by which the evil might be lessened, if not wholly removed. An increase in the fees to at least one hundred dollars, and a rule that no patent should be issued for six months or a year after the date of discovery, would, it is claimed, prove a wholesome check. Of these two plans, Mr. HABERMEHL regards the first mentioned as the most efficacious, but admits the difficulty of getting Congress to increase the fees. The subject is one worth discussing, and as the pamphlet is likely to find its way into the hands of those most directly interested, it will doubtless accomplish a good purpose.

IN THE course of a very able article designed to impress upon the people of New York the importance of keeping fully abreast of the times in all that relates to the extension and improvement of existing facilities for the prosecution of trade, if they would permanently retain the commercial supremacy which they are accustomed to felicitate themselves, the New York *Bulletin* notes, with some surprise, the quiet but serious inroads which our own Commonwealth is making upon the Empire State; whether as regards agriculture, manufactures, railways or progressive growth of population. Remarking on a statement in the report of Commissioner BIGHAM, that by the year 1900 the population of Pennsylvania will be about equal to that of the State of New York, the *Bulletin* says: "It is the part of wisdom to accept the figures as they are, as well as the deduction from them, if we would not drop into a lethargy, and be beaten in the race." It also directs attention to the fact that Pennsylvania is considerably in advance of New York in productiveness, while transportation facilities and their extension, wherever profitable or practicable, have never been lost sight of, the result being to-day "a vast system of railways which not only rakes into the Commonwealth a lion's share of Western and Southern products, and travel, but develops the wonderful internal resources of the State to a degree which well nigh sets statistical measurement at fault." Enough, says that paper, is shown—

"To demonstrate that there is already more than one Commonwealth in the Union deserving the title of Empire State; and not only this, but that vast are the resources and wealth of New York, it is by no means certain that the enterprise and push of her great next door neighbor are not destined to overshadow her as a competitor whose growing formidableness it would simply be affectation any longer to disregard."

It is quite evident that the rapid rate at which the Keystone State is developing as New York in all the elements of power, influence and greatness and empire, is creating not a little uneasiness on the part of that Commonwealth, as respects the possibilities of the near future.

THE increase of co-operative associations in Great Britain is surprising. From 1395 to 1871 inclusive, the number of these societies had increased from 839 to nearly 1,000, with a total of membership from 174,993 to 232,188, and an increase of share capital from £1,046,-800 to £2,305,951. The societies in Germany, on a somewhat different principle, it is said, show equally favorable results, and were but little disturbed by the paralyzing effects of the war. In a recent paper on this subject in one of the monthly magazines, TOM. HUGHES, the well-known English author and philanthropist, considers that the great principles underlying the movement are conditions precedent to success, are: First, the rule that all dealings must be for cash—the distributive societies contracting no debts and giving no credits; second, a low rate of interest on the capital invested, to prevent the creation of a speculative spirit in the societies; and third, the frequent distribution of profits, to encourage a discussion of the question of economy in those classes heretofore not given to saving. In our own country less progress has been made toward the solution of the problem, than in Europe. A little knot of workmen in COLT'S armory at Hartford have, however, come very near realizing the ideal of a successful co-operative society. They started a co-operative grocery in 1868, fixing the capital at five thousand dollars, but their scheme not taking well at first, they were obliged to commence with a paid-up capital of only two thousand eight hundred dollars. The first six months the store barely paid expenses, but at the end of the year a dividend of twenty per cent. was declared. The second year the balance of the stock was called in, and during the five years ending with 1873, thirteen per cent. dividends were declared. The process of these societies is altogether healthy and natural, without a single subversive or revolutionary tendency; and they cannot be too generously fostered and encouraged.

THE Texas Senate has voted down the proposition to call a Constitutional Convention in order to get rid of the organic law adopted by the people of that State under the Reconstruction acts and amendments. The House passed the bill by a majority of one. The principal cause of the defeat of the movement seems to have been that its success would have necessitated a new election for State officers and Legislature. The Democratic press of the State, however, is extremely bitter upon the Legislature for failing to carry out the revolutionary designs of the platform as laid down. This body, nevertheless, seems to be doing what it can to anarchize the State. They are preparing impeachment cases against most of the District Judges appointed by the former administration. Eight judges are now before them upon trivial and false charges, their main offense being their political leaning toward the Republican party; and this highhanded business of trampling on the judiciary in order to inaugurate rebel Ku-Klux courts, pledged to enforce the retaliatory legislation they propose to pass, ought to arouse the attention of the people in the whole country. The judges arraigned are from districts peculiarly noted for their rebellious character and for the oppression of the laboring class, the colored people. These precious Democratic "Reformers" who, during the canvass, put on the livery of heaven to serve the devil in, are evidently determined that their master shall have no legitimate cause to complain of their lack of zeal.

THE latest intelligence from India confirms the worst apprehensions as to the famine. The Lieutenant Governor of Bengal informs the home government that upwards of a million persons, even now, are starving to death, and that all the poorer classes—which means millions more—are beginning to feel the want of food. There is no lack of food to feed their starving millions, but it has to be drawn from vast distances in the quickest time possible. This is the task to be performed, and just as it is efficiently or imperfectly performed will be the popular judgment of the government at home. The New York *Bulletin*, a careful and observant authority on all trade matters, notes that the European grain markets are beginning to be more or less affected by prospective heavy drafts on this account. "The country markets are beginning to harden in this Iowa law, is the maximum rate here, and that, too, without competition.

The use of terms which are merely relative, while in Hungary and Italy, at Odessa and Algeria, "rates keep high, both of wheat and rye, as well as of maize." These, taken in connection, are significant facts, and cansays that paper, scarcely be received with indifference by those who are endeavoring to forecast the future of the markets here.

THE New York *Bulletin*, of Monday, publishes a tabular exhibit of the earnings of seventeen of the principal railroads of the country for the month of February, as compared with the corresponding month last year. Of these seventeen roads there are but six which show an increase; namely—Atlantic and Great Western, $10,047; Burlington, Cedar Rapids and Minnesota, $367; Chicago and Northwestern, $137,772; Erie, $79,291; Indianapolis, Bloomington and Western, $3,893; Milwaukee and St. Paul, $233,784; and St. Louis and Iron Mountain, $15,824. The total earnings of these roads for the month foot up $6,900,839, against $7,209,912 last year, showing a decrease of $309,073. The total earnings since the first of January amount to $15,331,-300, against $14,093,778 for the corresponding period last year, showing an increase over 1873 of $1,237,524. The main cause of the general falling off in the gross receipts, as compared with the same month last year, is attributed to the prevalent depression in business; but aside from this, roads in the far West have been obliged to withdraw considerable rolling stock, in consequence of the road-beds having been seriously injured by the heavy rains and thawing snow.

THERE is a very active movement of cotton to the seaboard. The exports from the several ports of the country, from the first of September, 1873, up to the first of March of the present year, were as follows: To Great Britain, 1,158,339 bales; France, 251,493 and to other European ports, 322,137; total, 1,712,039 bales. For the corresponding period last year the number was 1,608,676; the excess this year being 103,363 bales. The manufacture of cotton fabrics has reached its greatest development in England; but indications are not wanting that our own country will soon not only supply the home market, but enter as a competitor into the fields where the English have hitherto had a monopoly. Great Britain has now 30,000,000 spindles in her mills, with nearly 400,000 looms and 650,000 workmen. Next come the United States, with 8,000,000 spindles; France, 5,700,000; the German Zollverein, 4,300,000, of which Alsace possesses 1,700,000; Russia, 2,000,000; Switzerland, 1,-800,000; Austria, 1,400,000; Spain, 1,400,000; Belgium, 600,000; Italy, 500,000, and over 2,-000,000 for other countries.

DISCRETION is often the better part of valor —particularly when one knows the weakness of his own and the justice of his adversary's cause. The so-called Philadelphia "Citizens Investigating Committee," after consultation with a number of "gentlemen eminent in the law," have, according to the *Press*, "concluded not to contest the re-election of Mayor STOKLEY." So ends *that* farce. We do not care to notice the *manner* in which they try to wriggle out of their humiliating position: the people of Philadelphia and of Pennsylvania will be no more deceived by it than they were by the professions of the "Reformers" before election, or their threats as to what they were going to do, afterwards. If FORNEY and his clan thought they had the shadow of a claim, they would not hesitate a moment in taking the matter into the courts, as they have virtually confessed the falsity of their charges against the Republicans of Philadelphia, it is to be hoped they will now quit their Chinese thunder puerilities, and settle down to the discharge of their neglected duties as men and citizens.

THE lumber trade is one of the most important interests in the country, and the indications appear favorable for a brisk spring business at good rates. An Ohio paper speaks of one curious effect which the financial panic has had on the farmers of that State. These persons are generally in good circumstances, and had money in bank. Losing confidence in the banks, most of them drew their money out. These funds will largely be put into new houses and barns, as the farmers are disinclined to use models of investment. The same cause is operating in the country over, and will no doubt naturally make an increased demand for lumber. The panic of last fall affected the trade quite disastrously. Orders fell off, and, as a consequence, although the mills stopped producing, large amounts of lumber are still piled up in the yards, awaiting sale; but, to compensate for this, it is stated that not more than one-half the usual number of logs have been cut this winter. On the whole, the prospect for a busy season, strong demand and paying prices all around is thought to be encouraging.

POLITICAL.

State.

An old and valued friend whose opinions always command respect, suggests the name of Hon. John C. Fleming, of Greene county, for the office of Lieut. Governor of our State. Mr. FLEMING is a hale fellow and an honest and upright man—one whom the people can trust in any public capacity. He occupied a seat in the Senate for three years, and ably filled the important position of Chairman of the Committee on Finance. As a Senator he labored industriously for the sale of the Public Works, and for the successful consummation of that project he was entitled to and received much commendation. It is highly probable that the Western portion of the State in which Mr. FLEMING resides, will claim the nomination for Lieutenant Governor.—*Delaware County Republican.*

General.

The only thing that disturbs Rush R. Sloane as he waits and watches, over the border in Canada, is that he is unable to stand up in the desstrick and denounce the corruption and extravagance of Grant administration, and plead for a purer and more honest and capable civil service. He is unable to shake off the feeling which led him to give all his time and all the money he could get for the election of the Greeley ticket and the Reform candidate, against Charley Foster, for Congressman.—*Ohio State Journal.*

The Massachusetts Prohibitory Law.

The report of the Police Commissioners of Massachusetts on their operations during the year in enforcing the prohibitory liquor law is even more curious in its revelations than the contradictory arguments of their friends and opponents of such legislation. The Commissioners have no other duty to perform than to enforce this law and those against gambling, and yet report that since it went into force the number of places where liquor is unlawfully sold in Boston only five hundred and twenty-five out of twenty-nine hundred, ninety-two is about three years. The Commissioners thus admit that liquor is now unlawfully sold in twenty-four hundred and twenty-seven places. If these are the only ones which the Commissioners have been given extraordinary powers; that they must not only arrest the liquor dealer, but seize his stock in trade, which the State then sells and the sale of liquor does not destroy, but sells. Another extraordinary fact about the Commissioners' report is that the State derives revenue from the prohibitory law. It is admitted by the Commissioners that the newspapers refuse to accept their returns, and allege that the number of liquor shops and cases of drunkenness has been increased instead of diminished. There are now one hundred members of the State police force, and the Commissioners ask that the number be doubled, so as to give one officer to every four thousand inhabitants. On the other hand, there is a strong anti-prohibitory party in the State, which demands an entire repeal of the law, and which alleges not only that the Commissioners' returns are false, but that drunkenness has been increased during the existence of the law, and that even on the Commissioners' showing, injustice is being done by allowing twenty-four hundred and twenty-seven liquor dealers in Boston to violate the law, although the Commissioners profess to know of their existence.

THE people engaged in the temperance crusade are bringing forward some curious statistics upon the extent of the liquor trade. The following is a specimen brick: The quantity of liquors of all kinds drank was sufficient to fill a canal four feet deep, fourteen feet wide, and eighty miles in length. The drinkers, if standing in a procession, five abreast, would take an army one hundred miles long. The destruction of life by the use of intoxicating liquors was at the rate of five hundred and fifty persons per day. The places where liquors were sold, if arranged in rows, in direct lines, would make a street one hundred miles in length. The total number of persons engaged in the liquor business was 970,000, of which 56,625 were employed in manufacturing and selling 5,685,633 barrels of beer. This number exceeds by more than 400,000 the whole number of all the persons in the United States who voted to preaching the Gospel and school teaching.

THE University of Michigan, which holds a peculiar position as the most successful of all attempts in this country to found State colleges, appears to be in a prosperous condition. The total number of students is 1,105, of whom 484 are in the department of literature, science and the arts. Forty-six per cent. of the whole number of students is supplied by the State in which the college is. During the past year the Legislature, besides some special appropriations, voted to impose a tax of one-twentieth of a mill on the property of the State for the benefit of the University. This will yield at once over $30,000, and, after the new valuation in 1876, much more.

THE new water works of Pittsburgh will cost $4,325,000, while the cost of the distilleries in Cincinnati or Louisville cost much more money than that. There is one element the temperance people overlook in their orders, and that is the enormous capital invested in the production of intoxicating liquors. They pitch upon the retailer, and while we have heard of hundreds of suspensions of saloons, so far as we know, not one distillery has stopped, nor has the falling off in the demand caused a decline in the price of liquors. It is country markets are beginning to harden in this Iowa law, is the maximum rate here, and that, too, without competition.

The use of terms which are merely relative, and do not convey an absolute meaning, are therefore apt to be deceptive as political warcries. When the Western farmers demanded "cheap" transportation, we thought they meant something much lower than what they have fixed; and now that they have made plain what they really mean by that term, we are not surprised at their views on the subject. If the Iowa railroads have been charging rates of transportation so high that those fixed in the law to which we have referred may be considered "cheap" in comparison, then they have been bearing a very heavy burden—so heavy that we do not marvel at their revolting under it. The demand they make for the rates they have specified are not unreasonable; and if they had gone one cent lower, all round, in fixing the rates, there would have been little the cause for astonishment. The railroads, in our judgment, will have no cause to complain of the prices fixed for them by the farmer legislators of Iowa.

STARTLING DISCLOSURES.

Chapter of Secret War History.

The Great Hurtt Frauds Brought to Light—A Conspiracy to Ruin Honest Men and Swindle the Government—The Strings that Were Pulled—How the Great War Secretary was Imposed Upon—General Burnside Does His Best, but is Overruled.

[Special Correspondence of the Cincinnati Gazette.]

WASHINGTON, March 3.—An incident in the preliminary steps taken to secure an investigation of the affairs of the District of Columbia first suggested an examination of the startling history which follows. The records were set it forth first became known to the present administration the week preceding the inauguration of General Grant. Its minor details were vaguely understood in a limited circle during the war, and the amount and kind of pressure to use. Said Cooke replies to Hurtt that he notes what Hurtt says about purchases; he sends out George S. Scott, who whom Hurtt can deal freely, and it will be all right. His brother, Pitt Cooke, will go out if he can. Gen. Scott will do as well, if equally as reliable for Hurtt's opinion as he is in his (Cooke's.) Cooke also promises to do all he can for Hurtt and informs him how he is progressing with certain parties who are endeavoring to influence the authorities at Washington to have Hurtt promptly assigned to duty as he desires. Cooke also informs Hurtt that he had seen Dunan, who desired that he or Hurtt should let Dunnell when he (Cooke) received the account of Stone & Baker for $5,750, and that Dunan told him that he would give him the full confidence of his commanding general, was obliged to leave with his family, in the dead of winter, for the most unhealthy part of the Indian soil, but that Dunan in regard to a band of robbers, holding high position, would be all he can for Hurtt. The people good treatment, reasoned Mr. Stanton, if they are allowed to know that the financial agents of the government had some of its most important political appointees had been in such a league for plunder during the darkest days of the war. And so he strove to cover the most startling points from the public eye. And so the court was dissolved, and the officer who took the case in hand was given